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NEW DELHI, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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PAKISTAN FACE NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF MAKING IT TO SEMIS

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India alerts US on Khalistanis

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

India and the United States on Friday undertook a comprehensive review of their bilateral strategic and defence ties here with both the sides stressing the need for ensuring a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific region. It was in an apparent reference to China flexing its muscles in the region.

The entire spectrum of relations between India and the US was discussed during the fifth 2+2 ministerial dialogue with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar representing India. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin led the US delegation. The Ukraine conflict also figured during the dialogue, it was learnt.

In the backdrop of strained ties between India and Canada, New Delhi conveyed to the US its serious concerns over increasing activities of pro-Khalistani elements in Canada during the dialogue.

"We have made our concerns very very clear," Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said at a media briefing after the 2+2 parleys.

"We have core security concerns and I am sure you are all aware of a recent video that has surfaced from one such individual," he said, adding the US side understood New Delhi's concerns.

The ties between India and Canada came under severe



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin arrive for a group photo before the 5th India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday

strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September over the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June in the Canadian town of Surrey.

Days after Trudeau's allegations, India temporarily suspended issuance of visas to Canadian citizens and asked Ottawa to downsize its diplomatic presence in the country to ensure parity.

Canada has already withdrawn 41 diplomats and their family members from India. India has already resumed some of the visa services.

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas and ways to further deepen the India-US strategic partnership figured in talks between Jaishankar and Blinken.

A Jaishankar-Blinken bilat-

dialogue, Rajnath said the partnership between the two nations is "critical for ensuring a free, open and rules-bound Indo-Pacific region."

He said relations between the two countries have witnessed a growing convergence of strategic interests and enhanced defence, security, and intelligence cooperation adding defence remains one of the most important pillars of bilateral relationship.

"Your visit to India is at a time when India and the US are closer than ever before. In spite of various emerging geopolitical challenges, we need to keep our focus on important and long-term issues... We look forward to closely working with the US across the domains of capability and for partnerships which can address challenges," he added.

Echoing his views, Blinken reiterated the significance of the region, saying, "We are promoting a free and open, prosperous, secure and resilient Indo-Pacific, including by strengthening our partnership through the QUAD with Japan and Australia."

"One significant way we are doing that is by enhancing maritime domain awareness, sharing commercial satellite data with countries in the region to boost their capacity, for example, to combat illegal phishing, piracy, and drug trafficking. We are also coordinating humanitarian relief and disaster response efforts in the Indo-Pacific... We are harnessing together the power of inno-

vation to make our economies more resilient and to make our communities more secure while expanding inclusive economic opportunity.

That is evident in the cooperation on semiconductors and advanced biotechnology, on our unprecedented investments in deploying clean energy at scale in our countries as well as across the region, and our joint research and exploration projects in space..." Blinken added.

Underlining the importance of the 2+2 dialogue, Secretary of Defence Austin said it is "more important than ever that the world's two largest democracies exchange views, find common goals, and deliver for our people."

"We have made impressive gains in building our major defence partnership over the past year, and that will help us contribute even more together to the cause of peace and stability. We are integrating our industrial bases, strengthening our interoperability, and sharing cutting-edge technology."

The strength of our partnership is rooted in the people-to-people ties that are the heart of our long friendship together, our diplomats, entrepreneurs, and students are expanding our partnership in new domains, including clean energy, artificial intelligence, and semiconductors. Our increasingly strong ties give us all hope for the future of this partnership and for our common efforts toward a more secure world..." Austin said.

Relief from sky

SC for carrot and stick policy to stop farm fires

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi breathed a sigh of relief on Friday as rain in the National Capital Region swiftly improved air quality, dispelling the lingering haze of over 12 days.

In a related development, the Supreme Court said on Friday that FIRs against farmers are not a solution to stubble burning. Instead, it recommended withholding MSP for violators for a year. The court also urged State authorities to engage in dialogue with farmers and motivate them to abandon stubble burning.

Making it clear that the court wants to see the results, the SC said farm fires had to stop at any cost and there are long and short term measures for every emergency situation. "Carrot and stick policy is necessary for stopping farm fires," it said.

Regarding the odd-even policy, the Supreme Court emphasised that the decision to implement the vehicle rationing scheme in Delhi rests with the City Government. The court criticised the Kejriwal Government for attempting to shift the burden onto the SC. After Friday's rainfall, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi improved from 460 on Thursday to 279 at 4 pm, though it still falls within the poor category.

Favourable wind speeds facilitating pollutant dispersion are expected to contribute to further improvement. The AQI,



Girls enjoy a spell of rain at India Gate on Friday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

an average of the past 24 hours, reflects this positive trend. On Friday morning, residents of Delhi and the NCR took to social media to share pictures of clear skies and express joy over the cleaner air.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, recorded 5.8 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours ending at 8:30 pm on Friday, with an additional 2.2 mm between 8:30 am and 11:30 am. "Rain activity will cease by today (Friday), and starting tomorrow, north-westerly winds will prevail for the next two to four days. As a result, Delhi's AQI is projected to remain in the 'moderate' to 'poor' category. While there is some relief from air pollution, it may not be significant," said Mahesh Palawat, Vice

President (Meteorology and Climate Change) at SkyMet.

A dense blanket of toxic smog had enveloped Delhi and its neighboring regions for the past 10 days, making it challenging for people to breathe.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the air quality is expected to improve further due to favorable wind speeds facilitating the dispersion of pollutants.

Kuldeep Srivastava, a senior scientist at the IMD, mentioned that most parts of north-west India, including Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh, have experienced rainfall since Thursday night. Once the western disturbance passes, the wind speed is expected to increase to around 15 kilometres per hour on November 11. This increase in wind speed will aid in dispersing pollutants, said Srivastava.

Stampede at Hassan temple

PTI ■ HASSAN

Seventeen people were hospitalised on Friday following a stampede after allegedly being struck by an electric shock while standing in queue for darshan at Hasanamba temple in this district, police said. Several people were standing in between the barricades used to manage the crowd and suddenly a few of them felt an electric shock, which they alleged came through the iron barricades, following which they raised an alarm, police said.

This resulted in a commotion, prompting people to run for safety. Devotees blamed the negligence of the district administration for the incident. It is said that a lightning wire had snapped and touched the barricade and people suffered electric shock.

"Seventeen people were moved out of the barricades and the rest of them are all fine. All the 17 people, including women, were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital. While four among them sustained injuries, the rest of them were hospi-

talised as they complained that they suffered an electric shock while standing in between the barricades," Hassan Superintendent of Police Mohammed Sujeetha told PTI. The officer clarified that there was no stampede and it was just a commotion.

Police said it was not clear if people indeed suffered an electric shock.

"Officials from CESC (Chamundeswari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited) are analysing the ground situation. A few women suffered minor injuries in the commotion and were hospitalised. They are all safe. Nothing to worry," she said.

Among the 17 admitted, five of them have already been discharged and the rest of them are doing fine, she added. A few minutes after the incident, the situation returned to normal and devotees were allowed darshan.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and several ministers and political leaders had visited the temple in recent days.



Dhanteras saw a large number of buyers in the market in New Delhi on Friday. The purchase of gold and silver gathered pace from the second half on Friday, with traders and retailers expecting sales volumes to increase by up to 20 per cent over last year due to the softening prices from the recent peak. Automobile manufacturers, consumer goods companies and appliance makers on Friday reported blockbuster sales during Dhanteras and expect the trend to continue for the next three days. The manufacturers have reported a high double-digit growth during pre-Diwali Dhanteras sales, in comparison with the same period last year, led by enhanced attractive offers and schemes.

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Slogans make way for campaign dynamics

PTI ■ BHOPAL

As campaigning for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections rises to a fever pitch, witty slogans and catchphrases that have the ability to travel far and wide, particularly in the age of social media, do not seem to dominate the discourse as they did in earlier elections.

"Maaf karo Maharaj, hamara नेता Shivraj" (sorry Maharaj, our leader is Shivraj) was a big hit in the 2018 State polls when the BJP targeted Jyotiraditya Scindia, a scion of erstwhile Gwalior royalty who is affectionately called "Maharaj" by his supporters.

With changing political equations following Scindia's switch to the BJP in 2020, which led to the collapse of the Kamal Nath-led Congress Government in MP, the saffron party's favourite slogan underwent a tweak.

When Scindia joined the BJP on March 11, 2020, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan wrote on X (then Twitter), "Swagat hai Maharaj, saath hai Shivraj (welcome Maharaj, Shivraj is with you)." BJP brains had coined "Shriman Bantadhar" (Mr Spoiler) for former Congress CM Digvijaya Singh in 2003 to highlight potholed roads and erratic power supply in the State, which they claimed were the worst in the country.

"In 2003, only potholes existed in the name of roads across the State. Power supply was extremely erratic and Digvijaya Singh used to say that elections are won by management and not by development. People were facing problems on every front. Such a situation was aptly summed up by naming him Shriman Bantadhar," said State BJP secretary Rajneesh Agrawal.

The BJP leader said campaigning through slogans has now moved from paintings on walls to social media.

"Now, sloganeering has reached social media unlike earlier days when campaigning meant wall paintings with catchphrases, though traditional politicking still existed," he said.

The result was that the tally of the Congress, the ruling party in 2003, was reduced to 38 in the 230-member House and the BJP under Uma Bharti emerged victorious with 173

seats, he said.

Even after two decades, BJP stalwarts like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have used "Shriman Bantadhar" in 2023 to refer to the State's condition during Digvijaya Singh's tenure (1993-2003).

In this election, the BJP calls MP Congress chief Kamal Nath "CorruptionNath", while the Congress has hit back with "Shivraj ka mission, 50 pratishat commission" (Shivraj's mission, 50 per cent commission) to accuse the ruling party of rampant corruption in the state.

The Congress also came up with many slogans like "Badhaiye hath, fir Kamal Nath", "BJP hatao, samman bachao" and "50 per cent commission ki sarkar, isiliye yuva berojgar".

PM Modi also used to say "Gareeb ki jeb saaf aur kaam half" at his rallies.

However, no slogan in this election became as popular as last time's "Maaf karo Maharaj, hamara नेता Shivraj", said political observers.

It could also be due to the fact that the BJP did not project any CM face in Madhya Pradesh. It has come up with "MP ke mann mein Modi, Modi ke mann mein MP" in this election, the MP himself speaks half of this slogan, while the remaining half is uttered by the public.

Senior journalist and political commentator Rasheed Kidwai said that catchy slogans tend to help campaigners drive home the key points effortlessly.

"But slogans also have a history of boomerang. 'Maaf karo Maharaj' was used effectively against Jyotiraditya Scindia in 2018 but in 2023, Scindia's Maharaj tag is back with another slogan. BJP opponents are dubbing the party carrying three factions: 'Shivraj, Maharaj and Naaraz (disgruntled)', Kidwai said.

MP Congress Media chairman KK Mishra said the BJP's "costly" advertising campaign with the "fake" catchphrases in the State has ended the credibility of slogans. Senior journalist and political commentator Girja Shankar attributed the changing landscape of slogans to the commercialisation of the creative space.

Cinematic journey through Time & Culture

BY HAMZA JAHANZEB

"A Bollywood State of Mind" deftly showcases Hindi cinema (as well as interrogating the meaning of 'Bollywood' as a catch-all phrase) and tracks its history over a century into the present. The book recounts entertaining anecdotes across five continents with joy and pizzazz, delivering an honest, seamless, and searing history of modern India.

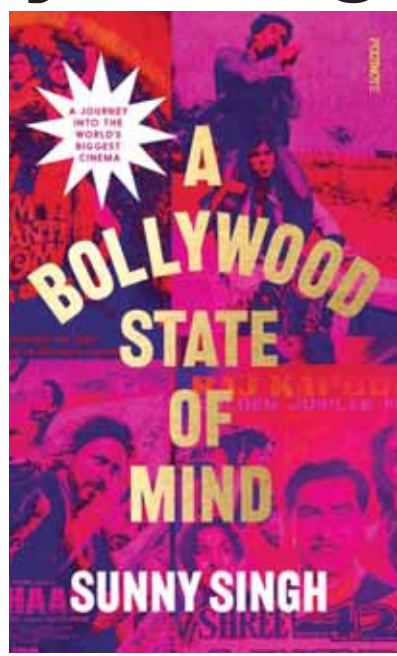
In this rigorously researched book, Sunny Singh notes how there has never been a more "quintessentially Indian cultural product" than the Hindi film over the past century, be it the masala movie, an action-packed thriller, family sagas or laugh-out-loud comedies.

Singh brings this art form to a global scale without condescension and with much love. There is a powerful thread that runs alongside, covering the history of modern India and cinema's ability to influence

politics on both micro and macro levels. Few books are written with such clarity and intent that they can reel in the reader and leave them wanting more. The early chapters on the origins of Indian cinema delight, while those on ways of watching films are thought-provoking.

The book also maps a life well-lived via Bollywood movies and the joys they continue to bring to a third-culture kid who spent their life across the world: From New York to Barcelona, Islamabad to London. Singh notes that the Hindi film remains a common denominator for her to connect with people across the globe.

In my own experience, people recognise "3 Idiots" during my travels, be it in Beijing or Prague. I could also relate to the familial outings described in the book, with "Agneepath" being a distinct film that I recall from my childhood in Lancashire, as well as the beloved



music — in my case, AR Rahman's beautiful soundtracks. There are moments of sweet insights into Singh's life interspersed with factual gems. For example, I, for one, didn't know of Binaca Geetmala, and after reading, revealed in old YouTube videos of the radio show. Reading this book is like sitting in an old friend's home, chatting about shared experiences and much-loved memories.

"A Bollywood State of Mind" also showcases a movie industry that has long impacted the world (Channel 4's broadcast of "Sholay" for the 1982 Christmas programming remains a remarkable feat).

The book also takes the reader on a longer journey through South Asian history in an engrossing way, covering classical Sanskrit theatre and its eventual decline, the region's many performance traditions, and nineteenth-century Parsi theatre as the forerunners of this cinema. There is also much joy at finding

chapters named for songs, both for those who grew up with the classics and for the newcomers who will discover them. Singh's book is the tonic we can all snuggle with on upcoming cold winter nights. From the queer-coded scenes of "Razia Sultan" to the global significance of "Pathan" — this book provides something for aficionados and novices alike, insights into a cinema we all love. This is a rich text that links stalwarts from the film industry across the decades: Zeenat Aman and Amitabh Bachchan, Raj Kapoor and Nargis; Shah Rukh Khan and Madhuri Dixit.

In conclusion, Singh's triumphant book provides both outsiders and film fans with a sublime overview of the world's largest film industry. Don't walk but dance along — ghungroos firmly attached to your feet — to grab your copy of this brilliant ode to a timeless and beloved form of entertainment: the glorious Indian film!

Abhishek alleges harassment

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA
A day after he was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the multi-crore recruitment scam, Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Friday lambasted the BJP Government for taking out its anger on him after failing to defeat him politically. "They (ED and CBI) harassed me in coal and cattle (smuggling) cases ... but failed to implicate me there ... now they are repeatedly calling me for questioning in recruitment case ... particularly on days when I have my other political programmes ... but I have told them that if they find an iota of evidence against me then there will be no need of ED or CBI as

I will hang myself in public," Banerjee who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said. "I am repeating what I had said three years ago ... they cannot prove corruption worth even a single penny against me ... as they cannot find evidence against me they are harassing me politically ... they are not even sparing my parents. They are calling them too ... this is because they have failed to defeat me politically ... but let me announce that even if they slit my throat they will not be able to make me bow before them," Banerjee said adding unlike other leaders his spine does not bend. Not naming Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari who was earlier in the Trinamool Congress, and joined the BJP before the



2021 Assembly elections, Banerjee said, "unlike many other leaders I will not mortgage my spine before others ... there is no point threatening me ... because howsoever do they torture me ... but I will not bend before them." Banerjee was addressing a social function at Falta in Diamond

Harbour parliamentary constituency. Alerting the people against falling in BJP and CPI(M)'s trap who were, "laying a communal trap to suit their political games," he said "there may be attempts to communally divide the people but I will not let that happen here ... I will also ask the people not to fall into such traps." Banerjee's statement came a day after he was summoned by the ED in connection with the multi-crore teachers' recruitment scam which has reportedly affected the employment of about 35,000 posts. Taking strong note of the scam the Calcutta High has directed the central agencies not to beat about the bush by arresting the small fries but to go up to the top and get the masterminds. The Opposition parties like BJP, Left and the Congress have repeated accused the topmost TMC leadership of masterminding not only the coal, cattle or recruitment scam but also municipal services scam and the recently cracked ration distribution scam worth about Rs 35,000 crores.

HC quashes 2010 poll code violation case against Raj

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Friday quashed a First Information Report (FIR) and the criminal proceedings against Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray alleging that he had violated the election code of conduct before the civic elections of 2010. While allowing a criminal application filed by the MNS chief, a HC bench of Justices AS Gadkari and Sharmila Deshmukh the FIR and criminal proceedings filed against him for allegedly disobeying an order of a public servant by overstaying in Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KFMC) area ahead of civic elections held in 2010. "The notice issued to the Applicant (Raj) under Section 149 of Cr.P.C does not constitute an order duly promulgated and as such, no offence under Section 188 of IPC is made out. Admittedly, as cognisance was taken of the offence without any written complaint being filed, the prosecution stands vitiated being barred under Section 195(1)(a) of Cr.P.C." the HC bench observed. "Considering the aforesaid facts, there was an express legal bar to institution and continuation of the proceedings and as such, clause (6) of paragraph No. 102 of the decision of the Apex Court in the case of State of Haryana vs. Bhajan Lal clearly applies," the two judges said. According to the FIR lodged against Raj in 2010, he was supposed to complete campaigning



in the Kalyan and Dombivli area by September 29, 2010, in accordance with a circular issued by the State Election Commission (SEC). Acting on the SEC's circular, the local Deputy Commissioner of Police had issued a notice to Raj and asked him not to stay within KDMC area beyond 10 pm September 29, 2010. The notice had said he couldn't visit any political party office, residence, hotel, lodges, guest houses and in case of violation, he may face prosecution under the section 126 of the Representation of Peoples Act. However, Raj violated the code of conduct by staying in a house within KDMC beyond the notified time. The senior inspector visited him to serve the notice. But Thackeray refused to accept it and it was pasted outside the location. Subsequently, the Dombivli-Kalyan police had registered an FIR against Raj under section 188 (disobedience to order by a public servant) of the IPC for violation of the notice. In 2011, the police filed a charge-sheet before the judicial magistrate at Kalyan. Having taken cognisance of the FIR, the magistrate summoned Raj to appear on February 5, that year. Thereafter, the MNS chief appeared before the court and obtained bail from the court the same day. Later in 2014, Raj moved the high court through his advocate Sayaji Nangre and sought quashing of the FIR. In April 2015, the HC on April 27, 2015 granted stay on the proceedings and had directed to expedite the hearing. In his argument before the court, Raj's lawyer Nangre had told the court that the section 188 of the CrPC was a non-cognisable offence and therefore proceedings could not be initiated through FIR, but through a complaint before the magistrate.

Railway requests passengers not to carry inflammable items in trains

PTI ■ GUWAHATI
The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) on Friday requested passengers not to carry any inflammable/explosive items in trains. As the festival season has already set in with a lot of passengers travelling long distances to be at their homes, they carry along all sorts of things including firecrackers and other inflammable materials which pose a risk to safety, an official release said. NF Railway has launched special campaigns to sensitise passengers not to carry inflammable items while travelling in trains. Railway Protection Force (RPF), Government Railway Police (GRP) apart from Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs), coach attendants, train guards and station managers are strictly monitoring the situation to save passengers from any danger. Carrying inflammable objects in trains is a punishable offence under Section 164 of the Railways Act, 1989 and the offender may be penalized with imprisonment of up to three years or a fine of 1,000 or both and shall be liable for any loss, injury or damage which may be caused by reason of bringing such goods on the railway, the release added.

WHO updates guidelines on treatments for COVID-19

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) has updated its guidance on treatments for patients with Covid-19, incorporating the latest clinical trial evidence for existing and new therapies and takes account of evidence relating to safety, prognosis, resources, access, and equity issues, as well as patient values and preferences. This is the 13th update to these guidelines given that the current

Covid-19 virus variants tend to cause less severe disease while immunity levels are higher due to vaccination, leading to lower risks of severe illness and death for most patients. This update includes new baseline risk estimates for hospital admission in patients with non-severe Covid-19. The new 'moderate risk' category now includes people previously considered to be high risk including older people and/or those with chronic conditions, disabilities, and co-morbidities of chronic disease.

The updated risk estimates will assist healthcare professionals to identify individuals at high, moderate or low risk of hospital admission, and to tailor treatment according to WHO guidelines: People who are immunosuppressed remain at higher risk if they contract COVID-19, with an estimated hospitalization rate of 6% while people over 65 years old, those with conditions like obesity, diabetes and/or chronic conditions including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, kidney or liver disease, cancer,

people with disabilities and those with co-morbidities of chronic disease are at moderate risk, with an estimated hospitalization rate of 3%. Those who are not in the high or moderate risk categories are at low risk of hospitalization (0.5%). Most people are low risk. WHO continues to strongly recommend nirmatrelvir-ritonavir (also known by its brand name 'Paxlovid') for people at high-risk and moderate risk of hospitalization. The recommendations state that nirmatrelvir-ritonavir is considered the best choice for most eligible patients, given its therapeutic benefits, ease of administration and fewer concerns about potential harms. Nirmatrelvir-ritonavir was first recommended by WHO in April 2022.

J&K has potential to lead country as Ayurveda hub: LG

PTI ■ JAMMU

Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said the region has the potential to become a leader in Ayurveda because of its diverse fauna. Sinha made the remark as he led a consecration ceremony at Government Ayurvedic Medical College and hospital in the outskirts of Jammu city. An idol of Bhagwan Dhyanvanti was installed in the college during the ceremony. Sinha during the event in Akhnoor said, "Jammu Kashmir has the potential to lead the country as a wellness and Ayurveda hub. Efforts towards this goal can be greatly augmented with the help of startups by young entrepreneurs and Ayurveda graduates." J&K is bestowed with a wide range of medicinal and aromatic plants, he said. "We need to run a sustained campaign to make the farmers



aware about the huge potential of herbs and medicinal plants so that they can harvest fruits of new green revolution," he added. Sinha said the integration of Yoga, Ayurveda and other Indian systems of medicine into the mainstream of public health system requires the "undivided attention" of doctors and other stakeholders. "It is our collective responsibility to promote the best practices of traditional medicine systems and sensitize students, farmers and the public on Ayurveda to build a more resilient and sustainable healthcare ecosystem," he said. Sinha also the college administration to start the PG Courses.

BJP passes on leadership baton to next-gen in Karnataka

PTI ■ BENGALURU

With plans to regain its lost ground in Karnataka, the BJP has by appointing B Y Vijayendra as the party's state unit President sent out a clear message to the party cadres about handing over the baton to the next-gen. The move was also seen as placating the Lingayat community, which is considered to be the core vote base of the party with some exceptions in the previous Assembly polls, and also to keep party strong man and octogenarian leader B S Yediyurappa in good humour. Vijayendra, is currently Karnataka BJP's Vice President. Vijayendra, the younger son of Yediyurappa, who is considered to be his political heir apparent, will be replacing Nalin Kumar Kateel, a three-time Lok Sabha member from Dakshina Kannada, who had completed his three-year term as the BJP

state president, and was given an extension last year in view of the impending Assembly elections. The appointment of the 47-year-old, who is the first time MLA from Shikaripura in Shivamogga district, just ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha polls is significant, as the new President will have responsibility of galvanising the party after the drubbing in Assembly polls held in May. "This appointment is in a way surprising, but also not... But as a party worker I'm happy that the appointment has been made and hope the party activities will gain momentum, with no artificial vacuum at the top," a senior BJP functionary said. Names of Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje and former BJP national General Secretary C T Ravi were earlier doing the rounds for the post. There was pressure from the

party functionaries on the central leadership to appoint a new President along with Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, for some time now, as there was a sense of unease within the party in the state, with vacuum at the helm, and "leaderless party" comments being hurled at by the Congress. Vijayendra has a huge task at hand. Along with gearing up the party for the Lok Sabha polls, he will have to navigate the choppy waters of the state BJP. Many seniors, especially the likes of Basangouda Patil Yatnal, are unlikely to be excited with this appointment, as he has been at loggerheads with B S Yediyurappa many a times. Vijayendra will have to take everyone along, in making the BJP battle-ready as a formidable opposition to Congress in the state and will also have to work with its new alliance partner -- the JD(S).



First chikungunya vaccine gets approval

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The world has got the first chikungunya vaccine, known as Ixchiq which has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for individuals 18 years of age and older who are at increased risk of exposure to mosquito-borne virus. Valneva Austria GmbH, a biotechnology company in Vienna, Austria is the manufacturer of the vaccine. Containing a live, weakened version of the chikungunya-causing virus, Ixchiq is administered as a single dose by injection into the muscle and may cause symptoms in the recipient similar to those experienced by people having the viral disease, the FDA said in a statement. "Infection with chikungunya virus can lead to severe disease and prolonged health problems, particularly for older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions," said Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. "Today's approval addresses an unmet medical need and is an

important advancement in the prevention of a potentially debilitating disease with limited treatment options," said Marks. The effectiveness of the vaccine was determined through a clinical study in individuals 18 years of age and older in the US, the agency's statement said. The level of antibody generated in the 266 vaccinated participants was "based on a level shown to be protective in non-human primates that had received blood from people who had been vaccinated," it said. The study had compared the immune response of these individuals with that of 96 participants receiving placebo, it said. The safety of Ixchiq was evaluated in two clinical studies conducted in North America in which about 3,500 participants 18 years of age and older received a dose of the vaccine with one study including about 1,000 participants who received a placebo, the FDA said. The most commonly reported side effects were headache, fatigue, muscle pain, joint pain, fever, nausea and tenderness at the injection site, the federal agency said.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that my client Virender Singh is in process to purchase the Property No. G-12, Area Measuring 50 Sq. Yds. Part of Khata No. 108 & 110 situated at Village Gokulpur in the area of G-Block, Ganga Vihar, Maqusa Shahdara, Delhi-94 (having loan from Pransal Capital & Housing Finance Limited) from Anil Jain who is the owner by virtue of Agreement to sell dated 9/5/00 executed by pushing dev. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise, however, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First Floor, Mahalaxmi Metro 1 Tower Sec-4, Vaidhali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

CORRIGENDUM
ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005
Demand notice publication under SARFAESI Act for Loan Account No. 12570500933 & 12575500015 Name of the Borrower G D TRADERS, AMIT KUMAR, SUMIT KUMAR & were the Demand notice dated July 13, 2022 & it's publication dated September 09, 2022 published at Pioneer (English) & Pioneer (Hindi), Symbolic possession notice dated December 08, 2022 & it's publication dated December 15, 2022, Pioneer (English) & Daily Pioneer (Hindi), Physical possession notice, pre-sale notice, Inventory, Inventory list & Panchnama dated October 10, 2023 & Post possession to borrower & Police and vacation notice borrower dated October 11, 2023 and it's published dated October 13, 2023 at Pioneer (English) & Pioneer (Hindi), under the securitization, reconstruction of financial asset and enforcement of Security interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under section 13(2) the property address mention in the entire sarfaesi proceedings is 43, OM SAI SANTPURA GOVINDPURI MODI NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH 201204, respectively. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said the Property address mention in above mention notice and it's publication is 43, OM SAI SANTPURA GOVINDPURI MODI NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH 201204 instead of RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY NO-A-43, SITUATED AT WITH KHASRA NO-805/5, VILLAGE BISIKHAR MARUF MOHALLA OM SAI SANTPURA, GOVINDPURI MODI NAGAR PARGANA JALALABAD TEHSIL MODI NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH. We therefore, request you to please read the same as RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY NO-A-43, SITUATED AT WITH KHASRA NO-805/5, VILLAGE BISIKHAR MARUF MOHALLA OM SAI SANTPURA, GOVINDPURI MODI NAGAR PARGANA JALALABAD TEHSIL MODI NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH.
Date : November 10, 2023 Authorized Officer
Place : Modi Nagar ICICI Bank Limited

63-year-old in Kerala who raped 12-year-old adopted daughter gets 109-year imprisonment

PTI ■ PATHANAMTHITTA (KER)

A court in Kerala on Friday sentenced a 63-year-old man to 109 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a minor girl whom he had adopted a few years ago. A fast-track special court in Adoor in this southern district of the state awarded the punishment to Thomas Samuel, a native of Kurampala in Pandalam. The court also imposed a penalty of Rs 6.25 lakh on the convict. Judge A Sameer ordered that if the fine is not paid, Samuel would have

to undergo an additional imprisonment of three years and two months. The court also ordered that the fine amount be handed over to the victim, a 12-year-old girl hailing from neighbouring Tamil Nadu, a police statement said here. The convict will have to serve a total of 20 years in prison as his sentence will run concurrently, police said. According to the police, some years ago the girl was staying on the veranda of a local shop here with her two siblings and paternal grandmother after their par-

ents abandoned them. On learning about their plight, the child welfare panel took steps to ensure their safety. Based on that, three local families adopted the three children, promising them a safe and secure life. The victim was adopted by Samuel and his wife who had no children. However, after the girl reached their home, the man allegedly started misbehaving with her and subjected her to cruel sexual assault and torture after threatening her during a period of one year between March 2021 and May 2022, police further said.

TUNISHA SUICIDE CASE

HC refuses to quash abetment case against co-actor Sheezan

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Friday refused to quash the first information report (FIR) registered against television actor Sheezan Khan for abetting the suicide of his co-actor Tunisha Sharma in December 2022, noting that the investigation prima facie reveals his complicity. A bench of Justices Ajay Gadkari and Sharmila Deshmukh, in its order, noted that the allegations against Khan prima facie revealed that his conduct in ending the relationship with Sharma, having a relationship with another woman and constant quarrels had deeply affected the actor. On December 24, 2022, Sharma (21) and Khan were shooting for a television show in a studio near Vasai on the outskirts of Mumbai. Sharma and Khan had been in a relationship for two months before but had bro-

ken up at his insistence. On the day of the incident, Sharma and Khan allegedly fought in his makeup room, after which she hanged herself. "Prima facie, it appears that the self-esteem of the victim (Sharma) was tarnished by the humiliation at the hands of the applicant (Khan)," the court said. The bench refused to accept Khan's plea that being in a relationship and breaking up was a common facet of modern society. "To submit that the breakup of a relationship cannot be viewed seriously and is to be considered a normal facet of life which is best termed as insensitive and adding insult to injury, particularly, when in the instant case, a young girl of 21 years has lost her life," the court said. "The applicant intentionally mentally harassed the victim and humiliated her by frequently fighting with her," it added. The altercation (between Sharma and Khan on the day of the incident) proxi-



mate to the incident in question prima facie constitutes a direct act of incitement leading to the commission of the offence, the court said. "Knowing fully well about the condition of the victim, whether by the act of quarrelling with the victim the requisite intention to aid or instigate or abet the commission of suicide was present will have to be adjudged during the trial however, the same can safely prima facie be inferred," it added. Khan, in his plea, claimed that he was in a relationship with Sharma for only two

months before they broke up. He further alleged that Sharma had a medical history of psychiatric disorders, namely depression, anxiety, panic attacks, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Khan claimed that he could not be prosecuted for the drastic and extreme step taken by Sharma and that he had no "mens rea" (intention). The bench noted that on the day of the incident, Sharma and Khan were together in Khan's makeup room and at that time, the duo had an altercation immediately after which she committed suicide. The bench said that Khan and Sharma were in a relationship that the former ended in December 2022. "The victim, a young girl of 21 years, was deeply affected by the breakup and continued with her efforts to resurrect the relationship," the court said. Khan was arrested in the case a day after the incident and was released on bail by a magistrate's court in March this year.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005
Whereas A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective successors, assigns, heirs). The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices. The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of symbolic possession of the properties are as mentioned below

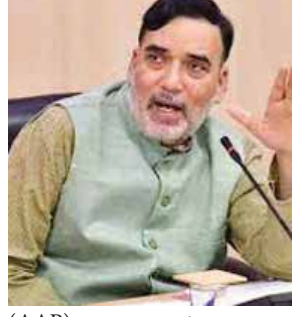
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Rajkumar/ Madhubala/ LBDL00000375339	House No 585, Housing Board Colony Sector 10 Faridabad/ Nov 06, 2023	April 20, 2023 Rs. 3,24,865/-	Delhi & NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : November 10, 2023 Authorized Officer
Place : Delhi/NCR Secured Creditor

Odd-Even scheme put off as air improves

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Shortly after the Supreme Court left the decision on its implementation to the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government, the Delhi Government on Friday said that it is postponing its plan to implement the odd-even car rationing scheme in the national capital amid a slight improvement in air quality. "For the last 8-10 days, due to stagnant wind speed and decreasing temperature, pollution levels reached a severe plus category. But, the weather has changed since last night. It's been raining since last night, which resulted in a higher wind speed and continuous improvement in the pollution levels. Considering this, the government has decided to suspend the implementation of the odd-even scheme, which was scheduled from November 13 to November 20th," Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said, addressing a press conference shortly after the Supreme Court left the decision on its implementation to the ruling Aam Aadmi Party



(AAP) government. "The Delhi government will now only consider implementing the odd-even scheme after a review of air quality post-Diwali, Rai said. The Supreme Court on Friday made it clear that the decision on introducing the odd-even car rationing scheme in the national capital has to be taken by the city government and pulled it up for shifting the burden onto the court. During the hearing in the top court on Friday, a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said the court had nothing to do with the odd-even scheme and it had never said that it should also apply to taxis entering Delhi from the adjoining states.

Rai had earlier said the scheme will be implemented in the city after the Supreme Court reviews its effectiveness and issues an order. The Environment Minister stated that there was a hearing regarding the pollution issue in the Supreme Court on Thursday. The Delhi government has presented its arguments on several issues. After reviewing the court's decision, the government will take further steps. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court questioned the effectiveness of the Delhi government's car-rationing scheme, aimed at curbing vehicular pollution, and referred to it as 'all optics'. Anticipating further deterioration of the air quality post-Diwali, Rai on Monday announced that the scheme, which permits cars to operate on alternate days based on the odd or even last digit of their registration numbers, would be enforced between November 13 and November 20. Soon after the Delhi government's announcement of the odd even scheme, it created a

controversy and allegations of misrepresentation. Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) VK Saxena on Tuesday said the odd-even scheme announced by the Aam Aadmi Party government is nothing but an attempt to 'mislead' people and courts to 'divert' attention from the crisis caused by air pollution in the national capital. An official at Raj Niwas said, "The file clearly shows that the decision to implement the scheme as a part of measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) stage-IV was not approved by Environment Minister Gopal Rai." Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was out of town when the proposal was under discussion, leading to his office deferring a decision regarding the odd-even rule, the official added. Meanwhile, Rai refuted Saxena's claims and said officials are 'misleading' the L-G. Rai said, "The decision to implement the odd-even scheme was taken on November 6. How can the scheme be mentioned in the file on November 4 then?"

Stop vehicles not destined to Delhi from entering Capital: Rai urges UP, Haryana

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai has written to the Transport Ministers of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh requesting them to issue directions to the concerned to ensure that all the vehicles not destined to Delhi should be diverted through Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressway right at their entry points before the city Border. Earlier in the day, during a press conference, Rai had expressed concerns over the negligence in the implementation of the ban on the entry of polluting trucks into Delhi at smaller entry points. Rai, in his letter, said, "I would like to bring to your kind notice that during the visit of cabinet ministers of Delhi on various borders in the night of 09-11-2023, it was noticed that non destined vehicles, which were supposed to be diverted through the Eastern and Western Peripheral ways are entering through the border and plying via Delhi for their out of Delhi destinations, causing vehicular air pollution in Delhi." He further wrote that in this regard, it is requested that the directions be issued to the concerned to ensure that all the



non-destined vehicles should be diverted through Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressway right at their entry points before Delhi Border. Accordingly, additional Enforcement Teams may be deployed at all the Entry Points to Peripheral ways to ensure the implementation of the aforesaid directions. Earlier, Rai said many of his Cabinet colleagues went to inspect various borders of Delhi and found that vehicle entries were being monitored at Singhu, Bahadurgarh, Shahdara, Ghaziabad, and Gurugram borders. Vehicles banned from entry were being sent back. However, there are many small entry points from UP and Haryana where the monitoring was not as effective. Therefore, instructions were

issued to the Delhi Transport Commissioner and Delhi Police to ensure proper checking of vehicles even at these smaller entry points. "At the Singhu border, I observed that the vehicles being sent back were causing traffic jams. After discussions with local people and officials there, it was concluded that if these vehicles were diverted to the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways right from the beginning, it would prevent the situation of traffic jams. Hence, I wrote a letter today to the Transport Ministers of UP and Haryana, requesting them to deploy additional teams that would redirect these vehicles to the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways from the starting points," the minister said during a press conference on Friday. According to a report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), 31 per cent of Delhi's pollution originates from sources within the national capital, while 69 per cent stems from sources in NCR states. Currently, Delhi is under a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), enforcing a ban on the entry of trucks and diesel buses except for essential goods and services. Complaints arose about diesel trucks and buses entering Delhi from neighboring states continuously, despite bans. The Environment Minister appealed to Delhiites to contribute to maintaining the current reduced level of pollution. He initiated the 'Diya Jalo, Patake Nah!' campaign. Diyas were lit up at the residence at civil lines to mark the beginning of this campaign. On the occasion, the Environment Minister mentioned that collective efforts from the public are pivotal in keeping pollution in check. He appealed to Delhiites to celebrate Diwali with diyas, stating the two-pronged objective of the campaign, which is to stop people from bursting firecrackers and encouraging them to celebrate Diwali with diyas.

Kejriwal seeks report on complaint against chief secy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has sought a probe report from his Vigilance Minister on a complaint alleging Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar's son was employed by a relative of a landowner who received an enhanced compensation for land acquired for a road project. Kumar dubbed the complaint as an act of "mudslinging". "The disgruntled elements against whom vigilance action was taken are undertaking such mudslinging," the chief secretary said. He added that proactive action, including initiating a CBI probe, was ensured against the officer concerned. According to sources, the chief minister marked the complaint, received by the Delhi government in October, to Vigilance Minister Atishi and sought a detailed report on it with facts. The vigilance minister's office said in a statement that allegation against the chief secretary was that he "benefitted his son's company by Rs 315 crore." The complaint has been sent to the vigilance minister for a detailed enquiry, it added. A 19-acre land at Bamnoli village in southwest Delhi was acquired by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the construction of Dwarka Expressway in 2018 and an initial award of Rs 41.52 crore was decided by the



district authorities. The landowners had challenged the compensation and finally it was raised to Rs 353.79 crore by South West Delhi district magistrate Hemant Kumar in May this year. Hemant Kumar was later suspended by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the matter. Also, the Delhi High Court recently set aside the award of Rs 353.79 crore. It was alleged by the complainant that the Delhi chief secretary's son worked in a realty firm, a director of which was the son-in-law of Subhash Chand Khatwaria, one of the owners of the land acquired in Bamnoli village. The award was raised to Rs 353.79 crore on May 15. Divisional Commissioner Ashwani Kumar on June 2 flagged the matter to the chief secretary, government officers said. The chief secretary directed the divisional commissioner to monitor the matter on a fortnightly basis and later also asked the Directorate of

Vigilance to probe it, they said. Sources said the Centre after considering the recommendations of the CVO-cum-Chief Secretary (which were sent to the Govt. of India with the approval of the Hon'ble Lt. Page 4 of 4 Governor), has referred the case to premier investigating agency CBI on October 20, to inquire into the matter. "The matter has already been recommended to CBI for probe then there is no issue to raise it. Let's wait for the CBI probe outcome", sources said adding the Delhi government is trying to divert the issue. Further, departmental action against the district magistrate were recommended to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on September 20, they added. The Delhi High Court recently set aside an award of Rs 353 crore passed by district magistrate Hemant Kumar in matter of compensation for land acquisition in southwest Delhi's Bamnoli village. During his tenure as the DM of South West district, the 2013-batch AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories)-cadre Indian Administrative Services officer, Hemant Kumar, as an arbitrator, had increased the compensation amount of the 19-acre land being acquired by National Highways Authority of India from Rs 41.52 crore to Rs 353.8 crore.

Nod for GNCTDSS restructuring; group 'B', 'C' to get promotion

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a Diwali bonanza, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the first restructuring of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Subordinate Services (GNCTDSS) cadre, paving the way for 13000 Group "C" and "B" employees to get promoted as Group "A" officers. The GNCTDSS was previously known as DASS, which was constituted in 1967. According to Raj Niwas officials, "In a major relief to about 13,000 Group C and Group B employees of the Delhi government, facing stagnation and demoralising service conditions, LG V K Saxena has approved the first cadre restructuring of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Subordinate Services (GNCTDSS). Officers of the DASS, who enter services as Group C employees, will now be able to get promoted as Group A officers". "DASS was constituted in 1967 and was not restructured for the last 56 years, while according to the extant rules and provisions, the mandate is to restructure it every five years, the official said. Owing to the non-restructuring, there was acute stagnation in the GNCTDSS cadre and directly recruited Grade-II



(DASS) or assistant section officers (ASOs) could get only one promotion in their entire career, rising up to the level of Grade-I(DASS) or section officer (SO) (Group-B, gazetted). At the far end of their service, only a minuscule number of them could get promotion to the post of entry grade of the DANICS (Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Island Civil Services), the official explained. The proposal for restructuring of the cadre was earlier considered by the Delhi government and a committee under the chairmanship of S N Sahai was formed. However, the restructuring could not materialise. "Considering the long-time demand of the GNCTDSS cadre officials, the matter of restructuring of the cadre was deliberated upon with the Ministry of Home Affairs. With the concurrence of the MHA, finance department and law department of the Delhi government, the LG

approved that 217 specific posts will be abolished and created at Pay Level-11 (Group-A posts) within the GNCTDSS, with the appropriate nomenclature of these posts to be decided in consultation with the departments concerned," the official said. These newly-created posts of the department will be manned by the existing officers till the eligible Grade-I officers of the GNCTDSS are promoted and posted to replace them. The officials of the GNCTDSS, having minimum nine years of regular service as Grade-I officers, shall be considered for promotion against such 217 posts. The promoted officers appointed against such newly-created 217 posts shall not be posted or deployed against any Indian Administrative Service (IAS) or DANICS posts, or posts of similar pay scales in any other cadre, organisation or department. The channel of submission of files shall be ensured in such a manner so that no entry-grade DANICS officer would be required to report to such senior scale officers of the GNCTDSS. In August, Delhi Services Minister Atishi had objected to the restructuring of the DASS cadre by the LG as a "complete violation" of a Supreme Court order and the GNCTD (Amendment) Act, 2023.

Received complaint on Onam poster, says JNU; students union refutes it

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The JNU administration has received a complaint from some students over the alleged depiction of king Mahabali draped in the colours of the Palestinian flag in an Onam poster. They alleged that their religious sentiments were hurt by the depiction. "See the political manipulation of King Mahabali who was a devotee of Lord Vishnu to support Hamas... A group of students belonging to Kerala have complained as it hurt their feelings," Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, said. The students have raised objection to the extended festivities of Onam which was celebrated in August and suggested that the upcoming festival of Diwali could have been celebrated in its place, she added. JNUSU president Aishwari Ghosh claimed that no such complaint has been made by the students and alleged that the administration is lying due to the criticism received by several politicians over the cancellation of Onam celebrations at the university's Convention Centre. The Onam poster does not specifically show solidarity with Palestine and stands for

several other issues happening around the world, she added. "No complaint has been made by the students. The administration is lying since the issue has been criticised widely in the southern India," she said. Ghosh further said that the administration had previously allowed holding of various religious festivals at the Convention Centre, but the permission for Onam celebrations at the venue was withheld. "JNUSU had opposed the Garbh Sanskar programme organised at the Convention Centre by an organisation affiliated to the RSS which aimed at imparting cultural and patriotic values to infants while still in the womb. Did she cancel these events?" she asked. Meanwhile, the JNU administration on Thursday claimed that no permission for food festival on Onam was sent to the vice chancellor and the "politically manipulated" poster was later changed to food festival for Onam. An acknowledgement receipt of the booking, however, was shared by Ghosh on X. Responding to Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's post over the issue on X, the JNU's official social media handle said, "Half truths need to be verified and condemned not glorified."

4 balconies of Chintels Paradiso Tower D collapse, no casualties



Four balconies of Tower D in Chintels Paradiso society collapsed on Thursday night, the president of the housing complex has claimed. No casualties or property damage occurred during the incident. Tower D had been closed off, and its surrounding area cordoned off since November 2022 under the orders of the Gurugram deputy commissioner, which likely contributed to the absence of any harm. This housing complex gained public attention earlier in 2022 when a segment of the sixth floor of Tower D collapsed, tragically resulting in the loss of two lives. Subsequently, in structural audit reports conducted by IIT Delhi, five out of the nine towers in the complex

were deemed "unsafe for habitation." The society has nine towers in total. "Four balconies of Tower D collapsed last night but no one was injured in the incident as the tower is vacant," Rakesh Hooda, the president of the housing society, said. "Towers E and F were vacated in June 2023 while the orders for evacuation of Towers G and H were also issued but around four families in Tower G and 10 in Tower H are forced to stay back in the absence of adequate rehabilitation," he added. The CBI has taken over the investigation into the partial collapse of the Chintels Paradiso project. The Supreme Court is also hearing the plea of residents seeking compensation and action against the developer.

Atishi holds high level meet to ensure smooth preparations for Chhath



Delhi Revenue Minister Atishi on Friday held a high-level meeting with all district magistrates to ensure smooth preparations for Chhath Puja. According to a statement, the government is preparing over 1,000 ghats for Chhath and Atishi asked the officials to pay special attention to hygiene at the ghats. "Atishi held a high-level meeting with all district magistrates to ensure smooth preparations this year. She directed officials to start all necessary preparations for Chhath Mahaparv to avoid the last-minute rush, ensuring devotees face no issues," the statement said. "Additionally, she directed an increase in the size of some

Chhath ghats at specific locations to accommodate more devotees. "This year too, the city government is preparing more than 1,000 ghats for Chhath Puja. All of them will be provided with facilities like water, tents, electricity, toilets, security, medical and power backup. Along with this, the government will also facilitate Maithili-Bhojpuri cultural programmes on its ghats through its academy," the statement added. "The Revenue Minister mentioned that all district collectors should ensure necessary arrangements at designated ghats in their districts. They should initiate discussions with local Chhath Puja committees, gather suggestions, and make preparations accordingly to successfully conduct Chhath Puja events," it said.

LG inaugurates illumination of Chimney Tower at Rajghat Power Plant

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On the eve of Diwali, Delhi got another significant lighted landmark on its skyline, with Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday inaugurating the illumination of 166 metres Chimney Tower at Rajghat Power Plant, making it the tallest illuminated structure of the National Capital. With the Qutub Minar in South Delhi, Pitampura TV Tower in North/West Delhi,



this illuminated column of light will become the outstanding landmark for Central/East Delhi, about 09 months after, Saxena first visited it, officials said. This is in line with Saxena's

commitment to beautify the National Capital by creating permanent assets and will serve as a new landmark of the ITO metropolitan city centre, especially for the lakhs of people entering the central city area on a daily basis to and from across the River Yamuna. It also promises to unfold further surprises that are to be opened up subsequently, through refurbishment and adaptive reuse/repurposing of the Power Plant precinct.

DU declares early Winter break from November 13-19

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the fourth stage of the Graded Response Actions Plan (GRAP) invoked due to deteriorating air quality index in the national capital, the Delhi University has declared an early winter break from November 13-19. All colleges and institutes of the university have been asked to declare the winter break. "In order to tide over the prevailing environmental pollution caused by severe air quality and implementation of GRAP-IV measures in Delhi, it has been decided to declare November 13 to 19 as winter break for the university and its colleges," the notification issued on Thursday read. The university has also revised the examination date for its undergraduate (UG) and post-graduate (PG) courses which will begin from December 20 and January 8, respectively, it said. The winter break, which is usually given in December, has been revised keeping in mind the GRAP-IV measures being implemented amid the prevailing air pollution in Delhi. The examination schedule for these courses will be released soon, an official said.



A woman purchases gold ornaments on the occasion of Dhanteras. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

India holds '2+2' Ministerial dialogue with US

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and the US on Friday took stock of their strong defence here during bilateral talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his counterpart Lloyd Austin. He said the two countries will co-produce an infantry combat vehicle as part of defence industrial cooperation. Giving details of the talks, defence ministry officials said the two Ministers comprehensively discussed a wide range of defence and strategic issues. There was particular focus on enhancing defence industrial cooperation and getting the defence industries from both sides together

to cooperatively co-develop and co-produce defence systems. The Ministers explored ways and means to advance their defence technology cooperation with joint research in critical areas. They reviewed the progress of the India-US Defence Industrial Ecosystem, INDUS-X, which was launched in June this year and aims to expand the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation between the governments, businesses and academic institutions of India and US. Secretary Austin welcomed India's decision to elevate to full membership of the Combined Maritime Forces, a multilateral construct headquartered in Bahrain.



Rajnath symbolically handed over to Secretary Austin some items recovered in Assam as part of the US Defence POW MIA Accounting Agency Mission. The items include parts of parachute, uniform and airplane of the US forces from the World War II-era. The Ministers, before concluding, drew up an agenda for future joint work for their teams. Talking to reporters after the '2+2' defence and foreign ministerial dialogue, Austin said, "We are working together to co-produce an armoured vehicle and that is extremely important." To a question, he said the talks covered a wide range of issues including the rising security challenges from China. At the same time, he said the

US-India relationship is not just based on challenges that China represents but it is based on shared values between the two countries. Asked about the project under which India will procure 31 MQ-9B drones from the US, Austin said it will be announced at the right time. Officials in the government are doing everything possible to make sure that India gets that capability as quickly as possible, he said. We are stepping up US-India defence activities in multiple domains — from space to under sea, Austin said. We exchanged views on major developments in Indo-Pacific region, Middle East and Ukraine, he said. Austin said the US-India cooperation is stronger than ever.

Parliament panel reports on Bills to replace criminal laws submitted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Reports on the three Bills which seek to replace the criminal and procedural laws were submitted to Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday. The Vice President's Secretariat informed that chairman of the Standing Committee on Home Brij Lal called on Dhankhar in Parliament and handed over the three reports. Soon after Home Minister Amit Shah had introduced the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bills in Lok Sabha in August, he had urged the Speaker to refer the measures to the standing committee for



threadbare examination. Shah had described the current set of laws guiding the criminal jurisprudence as a colonial legacy, a reference to their British Raj provenance, and asserted that they focussed on punishment while the proposed laws give primacy to justice. The standing committee on Home, which comes under the Rajya Sabha secretariat, was given three months to

examine the bills which seek to replace the Indian Penal Code, CrPC and the Evidence Act. The three laws form the backbone of Indian criminal jurisprudence. Earlier this month, the parliamentary panel had adopted the three reports offering a slew of amendments but sticking to their Hindi names, with nearly 10 opposition members submitting dissent notes. The committee has recommended taking a more stringent view of deaths caused by negligence amid criticism that the current statute is too lenient. The committee has also proposed a reduction in sentence for those convicted of deterring public servant from discharging their duties.

Be in sync with technological advancements, adopt modern practices: Army Chief to MES

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Army Chief General Manoj Pande has urged the Military Engineer Services (MES) to endeavour to be in sync with the technological advancements happening in the industry and adopt modern construction methods. He said this in his address at a two-day engineer conclave on infrastructure development and sustenance held on November 8 and 9 at the Manekshaw Centre at Delhi Cantonment, it was learnt. Pande addressed a gathering of about 550 officials from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, MES, and representatives from the construction industry, academia and research organisations, they said. Delivering the keynote address, the Army chief urged the MES to endeavour to be "in sync with the technological advancements" happening in the industry and "adopt modern practices as a norm". He highlighted certain fundamental issues that need to be addressed by the MES, like knowledge sharing, through engagement with other government departments and external agencies, exploring modern project management methods to minimise time cost overrun and improve quality of construction with technology infusion, the sources said. Speakers from various fields spoke on pertinent construc-



tion aspects, including emerging technologies like 3D construction, precast methods, cold climate concreting, underground storage, automation tools, net zero buildings, green norms and contract management. The speakers included industry experts on various subjects, pioneers in green norms on geo-thermal topics, industry litigators, contract managers, and subject experts, sources said. Engineer-in-Chief, Lt General Arvind Walia while delivering the welcome address, reiterated the national mood in developing infrastructure and the role of the MES in nation-building, being one of the largest construction agencies in the country. He elaborated on the time-cost-quality paradigm and the plans of the MES to optimise the balance between the three aspects. The event also marked the beginning of a series of such interactions, so as to make the organisation more contemporary and effective, they said.

Ramp up healthcare preparations to deal with pollution-triggered patient rush: Centre to 4 States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid soaring levels of toxic air in the national Capital, the Union Health Ministry has issued a comprehensive advisory asking Delhi and its neighbouring States to strengthen the healthcare system to deal with any rush of patients triggered by poor air quality that may worsen in the upcoming festive season. In a letter to the health departments of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan this week, Director General of Health Services (DGHS) Atul Goel also asked schools and students to take proactive measures to combat the escalating pollution crisis including promoting bicycle usage among higher-grade students. Ensuring proper ventilation in classrooms and advocating for 'wet mopping' of floors are among the other measures suggested to enhance indoor air quality. Union Health Secretary Sudhanshu Pant has called for comprehensive district and city-level action plans to combat air pollution, aligning with state-level initiatives. "The consequences are graver for vulnerable population such as children, pregnant women, older people, those with pre-existing illnesses, and those exposed due to their occupations such as those involved in traffic policing and municipal work, etc," Dr Goel said and urged the state authorities for necessary healthcare preparedness. This would require increased allocation of beds, stock updates on medicines and equipment related to case management, capacity building of health workforce, and enhanced public awareness.



transport for school commuting. Additionally, it encourages schools to promote bicycle usage among higher-grade students. Ensuring proper ventilation in classrooms and advocating for 'wet mopping' of floors are among the other measures suggested to enhance indoor air quality. Union Health Secretary Sudhanshu Pant has called for comprehensive district and city-level action plans to combat air pollution, aligning with state-level initiatives. "The consequences are graver for vulnerable population such as children, pregnant women, older people, those with pre-existing illnesses, and those exposed due to their occupations such as those involved in traffic policing and municipal work, etc," Dr Goel said and urged the state authorities for necessary healthcare preparedness. This would require increased allocation of beds, stock updates on medicines and equipment related to case management, capacity building of health workforce, and enhanced public awareness.

India, Bangladesh Navies exercise ends on Friday after three days

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The 4th edition of bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy, BONGOSAGAR-23, and the 5th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) by the two navies was conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal for three ending Thursday, officials said here on Friday. Giving details of the drills, they said ships and aircraft from both navies undertook joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), and subsequently conducted maritime exercises to enhance interoperability. Indian Navy ships Kuthar, Kiltan and Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Dornier participated in the exercise along with Bangladesh Navy Ships Abu Bakr, Abu Ubaidah and MPA. The ships undertook communication drills, surface gun-shots, tactical manoeuvres and other exercises that culminated with a steam past. The CORPAT-23 also included the maiden Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) drills conducted between the two navies wherein a Search and Rescue scenario at sea was exercised. Regular bilateral exercises and coordinated patrols have strengthened mutual understanding and cooperation between the two navies.

World gets its first chikungunya vaccine Ixchiq

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The world has got the first chikungunya vaccine, known as Ixchiq which has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for individuals 18 years of age and older who are at increased risk of exposure to mosquito-borne virus. Valneva Austria GmbH, a biotechnology company in Vienna, Austria is the manufacturer of the vaccine. Containing a live, weakened version of the chikungunya-causing virus, Ixchiq is administered as a single dose by injection into the muscle and may cause symptoms in the recipient similar to those experienced by people having the viral disease, the FDA said in a statement. "Infection with chikungunya virus can lead to

severe disease and prolonged health problems, particularly for older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions," said Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. "Today's approval addresses an unmet medical need and is an important advancement in the prevention of a potentially debilitating disease with limited treatment options," said Marks. The effectiveness of the vaccine was determined through a clinical study in individuals 18 years of age and older in the US, the agency's statement said. The level of antibody generated in the 266 vaccinated participants was "based on a level shown to be protective in non-human primates that had received blood from people who had been vaccinated", it said.

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED						
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC069252						
Regd. Office: 110, Babar Road, New Delhi 110001						
EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30.09.2023 (Rs. in Lacs)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended
		30.09.2023	30.06.2023	30.09.2022	30.09.2023	
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	-	0	-	-	0
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	-1.41	-5.36	-3.19	-6.78	-8.41
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	-1.41	-5.36	-3.19	-6.78	-8.41
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	2.02	-7.03	-10.68	-5.02	-7.29
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	13.43	5.29	1.4	18.71	5.61
6	Equity Share Capital	300.89	300.89	300.89	300.89	300.89
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	514.09	500.66	495.63	514.09	495.63
8	Earning per Share (face Value of Rs. 10/- each)(not annualised)	0.06	-0.23	-0.03	-0.17	-0.24
	1. Basic	0.06	-0.23	-0.03	-0.17	-0.24
	2. Diluted	0.06	-0.23	-0.03	-0.17	-0.24

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED						
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995						
Regd. Off: NS-92, Khasra No-33/21, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun Park Bus Stand New Delhi -110043;						
Email id: superiorfinlease@gmail.com; Website: www.superiorfinlease.com						
Extract of Statement of Un-audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year ended 30 th September, 2023 (Rupees in lacs)						
Sl No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Half Year ended		Year ended
		30-09-23	30-06-23	30-09-22	30-09-23	
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from operations	32.07	34.38	51.51	66.45	101.89
2	Net Profit for the period (Before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-9.36	-6.24	25.52	-15.60	37.82
3	Net Profit for the period Before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-9.36	-6.24	25.52	-15.60	37.82
4	Net Profit for the period After Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-9.36	-6.24	25.52	-15.60	37.82
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	-9.36	-6.24	25.52	-15.60	37.82
6	Equity Share Capital	300.10	300.10	300.10	300.10	300.10
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet as shown in the previous year	₹ 3.31	3.31	₹ 3.31	₹ 3.31	₹ 3.31
8	Earning Per Share (of Rs.1/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)					
	(a) Basic (in Rs.)	-0.03	-0.02	0.09	-0.05	0.13
	(b) Diluted (in Rs.)	-0.03	-0.02	0.09	-0.05	0.11

CUBICAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED						
Regd. Office-456, Aggarwal Metro Height, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034						
CIN:L6599DL1990PLC040101						
website : www.cubical90.com E-mail : cubfinser@yahoo.com						
Extract of the statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended September 30, 2023 (Rs in Lacs)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter		Year		
		30.09.2023	30.09.2022	30.09.2023	31.03.2023	
		(Un-audited)	(Un-audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	
1	Total Income from operations	166.24	15.42	114.80		
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before tax	-1.99	10.83	-19.67		
3	Net Profit / Loss for the period after tax	-10.45	9.38	-28.57		
4	Equity Share Capital	1303.4	1303.4	1303.40		
5	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserve			53.85		
6	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (of Rs. 2/- each)					
	Basic	-0.02	0.01	-0.04		
	Diluted	-0.02	0.01	-0.04		

KOVALAM INVESTMENT AND TRADING CO. LIMITED						
Regd. Office: Premises Oswal Woollen Mills Limited G.T. Road, Sherpur, Ludhiana-141003 PB						
CIN:L65910PB1981PLC020558, Phn: +91-161-5066605,						
Website: www.ovmnhar.com/kovalam, Email:kovalam@ovmnhar.com						
Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/Half Year ended 30/09/2023 (Rs in Lacs, unless otherwise stated)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended
		30.09.2023	30.06.2023	30.09.2022	30.09.2023	
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from operations (net)	86.82	91.05	86.76	177.87	106.16
2	Net profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax)	83.07	88.05	83.40	171.11	99.49
3	Net profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax)	75.31	80.03	65.68	155.35	102.18
4	Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income/(Loss) (after tax))	932.11	2,201.99	-693.36	3,134.10	-2,755.16
5	Equity equity share capital (Face value : Rs.10/- per share)	222.39	222.39	222.39	222.39	222.39
6	Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve as shown in the per audited balance sheet of previous year)					7,019.67
7	Earning per share (EPS) (Rs.)					
	Basic and Diluted EPS	3.39	3.60	2.95	6.99	4.59

Working under sun causes 1 in 3 deaths from skin cancer: Study



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Working under the sun causes nearly one in three deaths from non-melanoma skin cancer, according to an international study including researchers from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). They found that outdoor workers carry a large and increasing burden of non-melanoma skin cancer, which refers to a group of cancers that develop in the upper layers of the skin. The condition is "rarely lethal but surgical treatment is painful and often disfiguring," according to the WHO. The research estimated that in 2019, 1.6 billion people of working age (15 years or older) were exposed to solar ultraviolet radiation while working outdoors, roughly 28 per cent of all working-age people. Further, in that year alone, working outdoors in the sun caused almost 19,000 deaths across 183 countries from non-melanoma skin cancer, about 65 per cent of which were in men, the study published in the journal Environment International said. From the research, the WHO called for more action to protect workers from hazardous outdoor work in the sunlight. As skin cancer develops after years or even decades of exposure, workers must be protected from solar ultraviolet radiation at work from young working age onwards, the WHO said in a statement. "Unprotected exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation at work is a major cause of occupational skin cancer," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. In this study, the researchers found that the occupational hazard of "exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation" had the third highest attributable burden of cancer deaths globally. Between 2000 and 2019, skin cancer deaths attributable to occupational exposure to sunlight almost doubled, increasing by 88 per cent from 10,088 deaths in 2000 to roughly 19,000 deaths in 2019, the study found.

I&B Ministry invites comments on Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Friday invited comments on the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill 2023. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act of 1995 has been in effect for three decades, serving as the primary legislation overseeing content on linear broadcasting, including cable networks. However, the broadcasting landscape has undergone significant changes in the interim. Technological advancements have introduced new platforms such as DTH, IPTV, OTT, and various integrated models. With the digitisation of the broadcasting sector, especially in cable TV, there is a growing need to streamline the regulatory framework. This involves ensuring ease of doing business and enhancing adherence to the Programme Code and Advertisement Code by the broadcasters and Distribution Platform Operators. Recognizing the need for a more cohesive approach, the existing fragmented regulatory framework is required to be replaced with a new, comprehensive law. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India has proposed a draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023. The draft Bill provides for a consolidated framework to regulate the broadcasting services in the country and seeks to replace the existing Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and other Policy Guidelines currently governing the broadcasting sector in the country. The Bill streamlines regulatory processes, extends its purview to cover the Over-the-Top(OTT) content and digital news, and introduces contemporary definitions and provisions for emerging technologies. It seeks to provide for Content Evaluation Committees and a Broadcast Advisory Council for self-regulation, different program and advertisement code for different Broadcasting Network Operators, Accessibility measures for persons with disabilities, and statutory penalties, etc. The Bill comprises of Six Chapters, 48 Sections and three Schedules. The key highlights includes Consolidation and Modernization to addresses a long standing need of consolidating and updating the regulatory provisions for various broadcasting services under a single legislative framework. This move streamlines the regulatory process, making it more efficient and contemporary. It extends its regulatory purview to encompass broadcasting over-the-top (OTT) content and digital news and current affairs currently regulated through IT Act, 2000 and regulations made there under. Another step is Contemporary Definitions and Future-Ready Provisions to keep pace with the evolving technologies and services, the bill introduces comprehensive definitions for contemporary broadcasting terms and incorporates provisions for emerging broadcasting technologies.

Devotees throng Annapurna temple on Dhanteras

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Amidst tight security arrangements, thousands of devotees thronged the famous Annapurna Mandir near Dwadasa Jyotirlinga Kashi Vishwanath Mandir to have 'darshan' of golden idol of Maa Annapurna on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras here on Friday. As the temple is located in the red zone of super sensitive Gyanvapi premises, elaborate security arrangements were made and each devotee was only allowed after being checked through metal detectors. In view of the rush of devotees, the adjoining areas were barricaded. Queues of devotees were seen even in Dashashwamedh-Godwalia areas. The Dhanteras Parv (festival) will continue for five days and it is the first time when the same has been extended to five days, instead of four. The darshan of the



Golden idol taken out for public glimpse at Annapurna Mandir on the occasion of Dhanteras in Varanasi on Friday.

golden idol began after Peethadishwar Shankar Puri offered Shodashopachara puja and Mangla aarti. During the next five days till November 14, the people can have darshan of this golden idol daily between 4 am to 11 pm except 12 noon to 12.30 pm when Bhog Aarti is performed. Every year this golden idol is taken out only once on this auspicious occa-

sion. In the afternoon hours there was a heavy rush when 'annadhan' (coins and lava) was distributed. The Banarasis believe that keeping the coins in the houses brings Maa Annapurna's blessings on their family. The reference of this golden idol of Maa Annapurna is seen in Bhisma Purana and other ancient books. Its evidence is available since 1601

AD which was the time of Mahant Keshav Puri. To maintain law and order elaborate security arrangements were made and senior district and police officers were camping there to keep a watch on the situation. The rush of devotees to offer prayers to Goddess Annapurna was also seen in the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham and the same will continue for five days till Annakoot Mahotsav. The doors of the Annapurna Mandir were opened after the aarti for the devotees to have darshan of the idol of Goddess Annapurna. The temple was decorated with attractive lighting and tableaux. This idol of the goddess Annapurna was installed at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham two years ago by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath after it was brought back from Canada as the idol was stolen from the city more than 100 years ago.

Chhath: NER to set up control room to monitor train services

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The North Eastern Railways (NER) will set up a control room in the Varanasi divisional office at Lahartara here for 24-hour monitoring of train services at different stations during the upcoming festival of Chhath Puja from November 20 to 24. Giving this information, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava said on Friday that as trains witness heavy rush of passengers during this one of the biggest festivals of this region comprising eastern UP and adjoining Bihar, which are mainly part of this division of NER, sufficient officers and supervisory staff will be deployed at important stations of Varanasi Division, based on the estimated load of traffic and passengers. Extending his best wishes to the railway employees as well as the railway users on the occasion of Chhath festival, Srivastava said apart from this, control rooms will also be set up at Chhapra Jn, Siwan Jn and Ballia stations of the division to handle any situation and at these control rooms the officers concerned and senior supervisors will completely monitor the passengers coming and going during the festival. "All the activities of the stations will be closely monitored by these railway personnel," he said.



DRM VK Srivastava

broadcast from the control room established in the Varanasi divisional office till the end of Chhath festival. In the Varanasi control room, Senior Divisional Operations Manager (SDOM) AP Singh, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (SDCM) Sheikh Rehman, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner (SDSC) Dr Abhishek, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (SDE&TE) Rajat Priya, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Carriage and Wagon) Anubhav Pathak, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM) Apoorva Swarnkar, Divisional Engineer (General) PP Kujur, Divisional Operations Manager Ratan Deep Gupta, Divisional Electrical Engineer Ramdayal, Assistant Commercial Managers AK Suman and Prashant Kumar and other

divisional and assistant divisional officers will be deputed. He has appealed to the passengers not to travel with inflammable substances in the trains, avoid travelling at the train roofs and footboards of vehicles and cooperate with the railway administration in keeping the station premises and trains clean and neat. He also appealed to the passengers to follow the safety standards issued by the government to protect against Covid-19 in trains and station premises.

Giving further details, the DRM said that during this period (from November 20 to 24), the trains will arrive on their designated platforms and there will be no change of platforms. "If changes have to be made due to unavoidable circumstances, the trains will be operated giving sufficient stopping time and it will be mandatory for the station masters to give prior notice (minimum 15 minutes in advance) of change in operation to the inquiry office," he said. Besides, maximum unreserved ticket/reservation counters will function continuously in Chhapra, Siwan, Ballia and Ghazipur City stations and arrangements for ticket distribution will be made from additional counters as per requirement, he said, adding that the CIT/Chhapra and Siwan have deputed two employees in each shift at the inquiry windows and one employee in each shift in

Ballia. "Information will be broadcast continuously on all three stations through the public address system. If necessary, alternative arrangements for additional staff will be made from the booking office," Srivastava said. Not only this, the DRM added that during the Chhath festival, all equipment, including railway, BSNL phones and coach guidance, train display board, announcement system installed at major stations will be kept working continuously and control rooms will work in the room of station superintendents at Chhapra, Siwan and Ballia, which will be monitored by officers. "Uninterrupted supply of electricity and water along with cleanliness will be ensured at all the stations and adequate number of Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel will be deployed to ensure queues at foot over bridges (FOBs), arrival and departure gates, booking windows and to control crowd on platforms at all stations," the DRM said, adding that adequate water supply, electric lighting and cleanliness in the coaches of all trains running during Chhath festival will be ensured by various departments and the teams of Environment and Housekeeping Management (EnHM) department, doctors and paramedical teams will be deployed at all the stations during the Chhath festival for cleanliness and medical arrangements.

Ancient medical system should be presented in new form: MGKV V-C

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Dhanvantari Puja, along with Shishyopananayan Sanskar and National Ayurveda Day, was celebrated at Dhanvantari Bhavan by Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Friday. The chief guest on the occasion was Prof Anand Kumar Tyagi, Vice-Chancellor (V-C), Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV) while the guests of honour were Prof Dorji Damdul, Head of Faculty, Sowa Rigpa, Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Prof SN Shankwar, Director, IMS BHU, and Prof Pradeep Kumar Goswami, Chairman of the programme and Dean, Faculty of Ayurveda, IMS BHU. On the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras, the Dean and other faculty members worshiped Lord Dhanvantari and prayed for the health of the world with various Ayurvedic medicines, flowers and fruits. In the Shishyopananayan Sanskar, Ayurveda Samhita, Siddhant Darshan, Dravyaguna Department and other departments applied 'tilak' to all the students of BAMS, MD, Junior and Senior Residents. An oath was also administered for the study of Ayurveda, which was



MGKV V-C Prof AK Tyagi at the National Ayurveda Day function at BHU in Varanasi on Friday.

in Sanskrit. Speaking on the occasion, MGKV V-C Prof Anand Kumar Tyagi said that the ancient medical system should be presented in a new form to serve humanity. "In the Indian tradition, knowledge increases with the development of humanity. Knowledge should be accumulated and spread. The future belongs to knowledge. With knowledge we can become leaders of the world," he said. Prof Dorji Damdul said that the Sowa Rigpa system of medicine is a medical system moving forward along with Ayurveda.

"Ashtanga Hridayam has been translated into Tibetan language. Important texts of Ayurveda are preserved in the Tibetan language. Therefore, it is very important to translate them into Hindi, English and Sanskrit," he said. IMS BHU Director Prof SN Shankwar said the sages had unlimited attainment of knowledge. "There is a need to preserve the available science. Knowledge should be preserved through the Guru-disciple tradition. Knowledge should be propagated," he said. Prof Pradeep Kumar Goswami

said that 'Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda' discussed in detail the importance of guru-disciple tradition and values and inspired the students to move ahead in life. In the end the vote of thanks was proposed by Prof Prem Shankar Upadhyay. The programme was conducted by Prof CS Pandey. Prominent among those present were Prof Anand Chaudhary, Prof JP Singh, Prof Sunita Suman, Prof Deepa Mishra, Prof B Ram, Prof BM Singh, Prof Shivji Gupta, Dr Sudama Singh, Prof Muralidhar, Prof KK Pandey, Dr Devanand and Dr Preeti.

Preparations for sankalp yatra being finalised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Preparations for the nationwide 'Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra' are being finalised in Uttar Pradesh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate this yatra from Khunti in Ranchi (Jharkhand) on November 15 on the occasion 'Tribal Pride Day' which is celebrated on occasion of Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary. On the same day people will be made aware about central schemes through information, education and communication 'rath' (chariots) in Sonbhadra and Lakhimpur Kheri tribal districts of UP. This campaign will be run through

these chariots at 50 places in Varanasi, including 48 places in the Municipal Corporation areas and one place each in the Cantonment Board area and Gangapur nagar panchayat. Additional Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB), Lucknow, Vijay Kumar said here on Friday that in the first phase of Sankalp Yatra, all the villages and local municipal bodies of tribal districts will be covered. In the second phase this campaign will run from November 22 to January 25 next year in the rural and urban areas of the country. The PIB ADG said that about 2,500 chariots will pass through all the panchay-

ats in rural India while 200 of these chariots will pass through 3,700 urban bodies of the country to make the people aware at 14,000 places. He said that as part of the campaign, 19 chariots in the urban areas of Uttar Pradesh will provide information about the public welfare schemes run by the Central government at about 2,500 places in 777 municipal bodies of the state. He said that the well-equipped chariots will disseminate central schemes through audio-visual, brochures, pamphlets and other mediums in regional languages.

Kumar said that a major component of this 'yatra' is that not only information will be disseminated but feedback will also be collected from the beneficiaries and general public about the schemes. During the 'yatra', people will share their experiences in 'Kahani Meri Zubani', he said, adding that during the visit, services like health camps, Aadhar enrolment, Mera Bharat Swayamsevak enrolment will also be provided at the venue. Agricultural activities like drone demonstrations and soil health cards and interaction with progressive farmers on natural farming are also the key objectives of the 'Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra'.

Be careful while bursting crackers: Dr Rai

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Festival of Lights, Diwali, is falling on Sunday and people are excited about bursting loud crackers. In such a situation we need to take special care while bursting fire-crackers. This was said by ENT (Nose, Ear and Throat) specialist Dr Ashutosh Rai while talking to journalists in the auditorium of Allahabad Medical Association (AMA) on Friday. Appealing to people Dr Rai said by taking precautions one can prevent deafness caused by noise of firecrackers. He appealed to the public to try not to burst loud crackers. To reduce the sound of firecrackers, put your hands on your ears or cover them with cotton. Ophthalmologist Dr Ankit Aggarwal said every time during Diwali such cases come in which the patient loses eyesight due to fire-crackers. While burning crackers, protect eyes completely. If any particle gets into the eyes do not rub it but wash it with clean water. If someone is burning crackers next to you or you are burning them wear glasses to protect eyes. After touching firecrackers, do not touch eyes with the same hand again and again, Dr Aggarwal added. AMA president Dr Kamal Singh, former President Sujit Singh, secretary Dr Ashutosh Gupta, PRO Dr Anoop Chauhan etc were present.

active members of the gang involved in smuggling large quantities of English liquor at the interstate level under Saini police station of Kaushambi on Friday morning. The STF has recovered 937 boxes of English liquor going to Bihar which has the estimated value of around ₹1 crore. The boxes were being transported in a truck having forged registration number plates. Deputy Superintendent of Police, STF Field Unit, Prayagraj, Navendu Kumar said: "We had received a tipoff regarding smuggling of Indian-made English liquor (IMFL) being taken to Bihar. On Friday morning we intercepted the truck near Ghulamipur modh (turning) over bridge under Saini police station and arrested two persons, including the driver Gurmil Singh of Ambala and his assistant, Mahendra, a resident of Narauli village of Kanbar district (Haryana)". "Various units/teams of STF were directed to collect information and take action. On Friday the team of Sub Inspector Ranendra Kumar Singh, Vinay Tiwari, head constable Amit Sharma, Santosh Kumar, constable Kishanchandra stopped a container and seized the liquor", said Navendu. On being interrogated, the main accused, Gurmil Singh, said that he is one of the members of an active gang of smuggling of English liquor, which smuggles English liquor in different states as there is huge profit on supplying liquor to those places. The main leader of this

gang is Manveer Singh alias Manu, a resident of Chandigarh and his associate Pawan Kumar Gurjar of Fatehabad, Haryana. The accused also informed that he used to pass vehicles by installing different number plates for different states. EXTENDED: The state government has revised and extended the schedule of determining the centres for the UP Board high school and intermediate examination-2024. The final list will now be out by December 10 instead of the earlier deadline of November 28. The reason for it is the delay in physical verification of centres which is mandatory as per the guidelines of the state examination centre allocation policy. The state government has also extended the date of physical verification of these centres. As per the amended schedule, after physical verification, the list of schools to be made exam centres must be uploaded on the board's website by the respective DMs through the DIOs concerned by November 11. Thereafter, the DIOs will have to publish the information about the selected examination centres in newspapers by November 16 inviting objections. DIOs have been given time till November 22 to receive and resolve objections. The committee formed by the DMs has been instructed to upload the list along with details of student allocations to these schools on the website by November 28, said officials of

UP Secondary Education Board, popularly, known as UP Board. After resolving the errors in the examination centres determined online and the objections received, the last date for uploading the list again on the board's website has been fixed as December 2. PROPOSAL: The Prayagraj-headquartered Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) will soon get a 11-storey building that will be equipped with modern resources and an electronic security system. The proposal for the building has been sent to the government for approval. To be built with an estimated cost of around ₹112 crore it is likely to come up in a span of just 18 months after getting approval. The entire building, each lift and rooms will be secured through a biometric system, said an official of UPPSC. After the construction, the commission will have a combined capacity of conducting examinations of 4,000 candidates in its Prayagraj and Lucknow campuses. The authorities have planned to instal a huge statue of Adi Shankaracharya, like the one at Badrinath, in the centre space of the building. There will be eight rooms on the second floor for interviews as there will be separate rooms for interviews for every exam. Presently, the interviews are conducted in the members' rooms only. An examination hall will also be built on the second floor that could accommodate around 700 candidates.

Workshop on TB care

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high priority National Tuberculosis Eradication Programme (NTEP) a training workshop related to 'Differentiated TB Care' was organised in a hotel located in the Cantonment area here on Thursday. In this from the state level Dr Dinesh Baliga, consultant of World Health Organisation (WHO), Adarsh Srivastava, state Public Private Mix (PPM) coordinator, State Tuberculosis Control Cell, Shailendra Upadhyay, public health expert from State Technical Assistance Unit and Naveen Agrawal, programme manager, WHO, gave training to the health partners. The meeting was participated by DIOs and district programme coordinators (DPCs) of the districts affiliated to Regional TB Programme Management Unit (RTPMU), Varanasi. In it it was discussed to evaluate other diseases besides tuberculosis in TB patients and to refer them to other medical units as per the need. DTO Dr Piyush Rai said the differentiated TB care approach is divided into four major steps. "The first of which is to evaluate the patient and test them with BMI while second, risk stratification and identification of high-risk patients, third is to refer high-risk cases to a referral centres for inpatient care and fourth and last one is to conduct monthly follow-up and re-evaluation," he said.

Research holds immense promise for sustainable agriculture

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In a groundbreaking research, Dr Prashant Singh and his research team from the Department of Botany, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) have identified two plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) strains that act as potent priming agents, significantly augmenting wheat protection against spot blotch (SB). Notably, the team's research marking the first of its kind reveals a remarkable inheritance of this priming effect to the progeny providing a promising non-pesticide alternative for sustainable crop protection. The findings of this groundbreaking research have been published in the prestigious Q1/Q2 peer-reviewed journal, Physiological and Molecular Plant Pathology, signalling the significance and credibility of the study. "Spot blotch, caused by the fungus Bipolaris sorokiniana, is a devastating foliar disease that poses a significant threat to wheat crops worldwide. Conventional methods of combating the disease often involve the use of chemical pesticides, contributing to environmental concerns and raising questions about the sustainability of crop protection strategies," he said, adding that his team focused on identifying biological alternatives to chemical pesticides and



through rigorous experimentation, we isolated two specific PGPR strains that exhibited a remarkable priming effect on wheat plants, significantly enhancing their resistance to spot blotch. According to him, the key breakthrough lies in the revelation that the priming effect is not only effective in the treated plants but is inherited by the progeny. "This heritability factor suggests a potential long-term solution for wheat protection against spot blotch, reducing the dependence on chemical interventions. The discovery holds immense promise for sustainable agriculture by providing a non-pesticide alternative for managing spot blotch in wheat crops. With the inherited priming effect, farmers may be able to cultivate crops with enhanced resistance to the disease, reducing the need for

chemical inputs and promoting environmentally friendly farming practices," he said. Dr Singh and his team are now exploring avenues for practical applications of their findings, with an emphasis on developing bio formulations that can be easily integrated into existing agricultural practices. The goal is to translate this research into tangible solutions for farmers contributing to the global effort for sustainable and eco-friendly crop production. This discovery by Dr Singh and his team marks a significant step forward in the quest for sustainable agriculture, offering a promising alternative to traditional pesticide-dependent approaches. The inherited priming effect opens new doors for resilient crop protection, signalling a brighter and more sustainable future for wheat cultivation.



FIRST COLUMN

RISING POLLUTION:
WHO IS TO BLAME?

All of us can do our part to reduce smog by changing our behaviour pattern



SAKSHI R SETHI

If Earth were a human, it would already be in the emergency room pleading for its safety. We live on a planet that only values the here and now, but ensuring that our planet remains healthy, sustainable, and inhabitable for generations and generations must be the aim. But the question is are we working towards it or is it the human greed towards leading a luxurious life that is drifting us apart from working towards climate crisis and other destruction activities?

It is just the onset of winter, and the northern part of India has already started to experience the worst air quality of the year i.e. the Smog. Smog also referred to as smoke fog is a type of intense air pollution that reduces visibility. India is the second most polluted country on the planet and its capital Delhi the most polluted capital. According to the Indian government study, Winter fog in Delhi is a toxic cocktail of pollutants.

Every year, Delhi and its neighbouring cities start to become dystopian, a few weeks before Diwali, and this continues for around a month after the festival of lights too. There are a variety of factors that contribute to the deteriorating air quality in Delhi-NCR. The very first is the high dependency on fossil fuels. The burning of rice straw by the farmers of Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh makes the air of northern India unbreathable as the significant emission of harmful gases into the atmosphere contributes to around 56 per cent of PM 10 and PM 2.5, followed by extensive construction activities which increases the dust. Also, the pollution from vehicular movements such as trucks and lorries add further to it making the air of northern India vulnerable and prone to diseases. This even reduces the visibility on roads and results in road accidents and cancellation of flights too.



Furthermore, the smog irritates the eyes and throat causing allergies and damage to the eyes, ears, and lungs. The inhalation of the polluted air by the children affects their ability to fight off infection, leading them to more frequent asthma attacks and respiratory illnesses. Moreover, smog is even dangerous for the elderly as their bodies are less able to compensate for the effects of environmental hazards. Also, people of all age groups should avoid or reduce strenuous physical activities and instead consider exercising indoors.

Research has shown that creating more green space in our surrounding environment can make our brains and nervous systems function more easily and effectively. In a world of smog and air pollution, one must create and immerse themselves in green spaces. All of us can do our part to reduce smog by changing or adopting a few behaviours such as reducing the number of trips in the personal car and instead opting for the use of public transportation or carpooling whenever possible; getting regular tune-ups, changing oil when scheduled as they improve the mileage and reduce emissions too; avoiding products that release high levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs); Using electric appliances instead of gas-powered lawn equipment's; reducing or eliminating fireplaces and using wood stove instead and many more. At the grassroots level, transportation electrification and vehicle fleet modernization are effective methods for improving air quality in Indian cities followed by limiting access to outdoor activities.

In the words of Rabindranath Tagore, "The one who plants trees, knowing that he or she will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life."

Remember, taking climate action and investing in conservation is our responsibility to future generations. Nature has given us all so much and it is our obligation to steward what we have so we leave behind a livable, healthy planet for all.

(The writer is an educator, views are personal)

Harnessing the power of drones

India is moving towards global leadership in drone technology by embedding innovation into the fabric of manufacturing and providing a supportive ecosystem



SAI PATTABIRAM



In the intricate dance of innovation and industry, drones have emerged as pivotal players, orchestrating a new era of technological prowess and manufacturing agility in India. The Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, a visionary endeavour to cultivate self-reliance, finds a robust ally in the drone industry, setting the stage for a transformative journey towards global manufacturing leadership. This article delves into the nuanced relationship between drones and India's manufacturing sector, exploring how these aerial innovators are not just tools of convenience but strategic assets to usher in an era of India's emergence as a global manufacturing hub in new age emerging technologies. Self-reliance in drone technologies is also turning out to be a critical strategic requirement from a National security perspective as seen in the recent Russian-Ukrainian and Israeli Hamas wars. The metamorphosis of India's drone industry is a narrative of strategic innovation and technological foresight. Beyond their military advantages, drones have seamlessly integrated into diverse sectors, from precision agriculture and critical infrastructure surveillance to logistics and disaster management. This multifaceted applicability has ignited a manufacturing revolution, demanding precision, agility, and innovation. The Drone industry has the potential to position India as a global manufacturing hub by leveraging recent geopolitical divisions and shifts that have emerged in recent times. The consolidation of various nations on either side of the NATO-RUSSO divide with India leading emerging as a front runner for the global south coupled with the discretion of China is a huge opportunity for us to emerge as a global manufacturing hub for drones and other fifth-generation technologies.



BEYOND THEIR MILITARY ADVANTAGES, DRONES HAVE SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATED INTO DIVERSE SECTORS, FROM PRECISION AGRICULTURE AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SURVEILLANCE TO LOGISTICS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

(The writer is managing director & founder, Zuppa, views are personal)

The Innovation Vortex: Catalyzing Next-Gen Manufacturing

India's manufacturing sector stands at the cusp of transformation, with innovation serving as the central force. The development of advanced motherboards and computing architectures tailored for fifth-generation devices is not just a technological leap but a strategic necessity. It demands a design belief that goes beyond aesthetics, delving into the realms of functionality and flawless performance. This end-to-end control of technology, from conception to delivery, is non-negotiable for ensuring product excellence and reliability.

The innovation of disseminated parallel control computing in real-time is the first ever game-changing atmanirbhar computing architecture that provides a robust foundation for the development of future-ready devices. This innovative approach to computing architecture ensures that India's drone industry is not just keeping pace with global trends but is poised to set new benchmarks in technological excellence.

Upholding stringent quality standards is a non-negotiable requirement for the country's ambitions to emerge as a global drone manufacturing Hub. Adherence to international aerospace process standards and automotive industry standards is a rigorous commitment to reliability, safety, and efficiency. This unwavering dedication to quality not only propels the performance of drones but also fortifies the reputation of the

Indian manufacturing sector on the global stage.

The commitment to international standards such as the AS9100D Aerospace Process Standard and the stringent AIS 140 compliance for vehicle tracking and locating devices reflects India's dedication to quality and safety. These standards are not just regulatory checkboxes but strategic investments in building a resilient and competitive manufacturing sector.

A Localised Manufacturing Revolution

The Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative is not just a policy; it's a motivation for grassroots empowerment and industrial self-sufficiency. The drone industry, with its potential to be a harbinger of innovation and growth, is integral to this vision. By fostering a nurturing ecosystem for innovation and manufacturing, India is laying the groundwork for a resilient and self-reliant industrial future. This localized manufacturing revolution is a strategic move to decentralize innovation, bringing it closer to the grassroots and ensuring that the benefits of technological advancements are widespread and inclusive.

Shaping the Drone Ecosystem

The Indian government's foresight in recognizing the transformative potential of drones has culminated in the implementation of robust initiatives and support mechanisms. Programs under the Department of Science & Technology like the TIFAC

=SIDBI Srijan Fund and MOD's IDEX Grants, underscore the government's commitment to propelling the drone industry forward. These initiatives provide vital funding and support, catalyzing innovation, and manufacturing excellence in the sector.

In the realm of innovation, protecting intellectual property is paramount. It not only fosters a culture of innovation but also ensures that India remains a global frontrunner in drone technology. The application of patents for unique 'Made in India' artificial intelligence technologies in drones is a clear indication of India's foresight and commitment to nurturing innovation.

Conclusion

The drone industry in India is at a critical juncture, poised to play a transformative role in enhancing the country's manufacturing capabilities. By embedding innovation into the fabric of manufacturing, upholding the highest standards of quality, and fostering a supportive ecosystem for growth, India is charting a course towards global leadership in drone technology. The Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative serves as a guiding encouragement, propelling the nation towards a future marked by self-reliance and manufacturing excellence. In this technological renaissance, the drone industry emerges as a pivotal player, embodying India's innovative spirit and manufacturing prowess, and paving the way for a self-reliant and prosperous future.

Challenges to curbing community-based prostitution

To bring about a radical change, the goal should be to break the cycle of exploitation through knowledge, skill, and building an entrepreneurial mindset

Community-based sexual exploitation of communities like Bedia and Bachara and other de-notified tribes historically started as a survival and protection mechanism to ward off the atrocities of landlords and the powerful—a cost paid by a nomadic tribe for stability. The compulsive survival instinct became a tradition, and the exploitation became normalised over the years. There are more than 100,000 Bedia and Bachra people put together, spread over four states in India. In Madhya Pradesh, the Bedia community is predominantly located in 12 districts of three regions: Chambal, Malwa, and Bundelkhand, whereas the Bachara community is in the Malwa region. In 1913, during



VEERENDRA MISHRA



SUMIT KAUSHIK

Veerendra Mishra is IPS from MP Cadre, H. Humphrey Fulbright Fellow, and a social impact consultant. Sumit Kaushik is a social impact consultant; views are personal

British rule in India, the Bedia and Bachara communities were registered as criminal tribes under the Criminal Tribes Act 1871, which was denotified in 1952 and then recognised as scheduled castes. They are in double jeopardy—they have to carry the stigma of being a community engaged in prostitution and being at the lowest rung of the caste hierarchy. The children are barely encouraged to seek education. The boys—most of them illiterate and having a proclivity towards social vices—prefer to stay financially dependent on the earnings of the prostituted girls in the family. A conservative estimate projects that about 70% of families are still deriving income from prostitution.

Currently, in Madhya Pradesh, Samvedna has already been working extensively in the 60 villages of six districts (Bhopal, Rajgarh, Raisen, Vidisha, Sagar, and Guna) on the issue of human trafficking and is currently working specifically on community-based sexual exploitation. Its focus is on the Bedia community, which is into inter-generational prostitution. The tradition falls under the category of community-based sexual exploitation, as children are customarily prostituted at a young age. Development practitioners at Samvedna realised that while working with the community, it is imperative to maintain a dual focus—working with survivors of community-based sexual exploitation for their rehabilitation

and reintegration, as well as working with potential victims with a priority on prevention through direct intervention by facilitating and providing access to education and alternate economic opportunities. Community development is possible only by challenging and dismantling an exploitative mindset and creating an enabling environment with access to opportunities and options. The uniqueness and peculiarity of the community require comprehensive intervention and a holistic approach to ensure desired change. The socio-cultural, economic, and political dynamics of the community are so entrenched through generations that working with one section of the community will not yield results. Due to

socio-cultural sanctions for sexual exploitation, any effort to bring about change is viewed as a challenge to their tradition and an intrusion into their private domain. While the focus should be on promoting formal education as a vehicle of change to restore the dignity and respect of the children and the community at large, the goal should be to break the cycle of exploitation through knowledge, skill, and attitude building. However, no one size fits all, and social entrepreneurship is another solution to lessen intergenerational prostitution among the Bedia and Bachara communities. Social entrepreneurs don't just build organisations; they change systems. We tend to think of charities and governments

when we think about ending human trafficking. But what do we think of businesses? We need to focus on planning and utilising business strategies and ideas and put them to work fighting slavery. Social entrepreneurs have the gifts to be the conveners, the connectors, and the change-makers who may work on a tri-sector level and work alongside corporations, governments, and civil society to assist in innovative approaches and tactics. Bedia and Bachara communities need to be ASSESED (Aware, Skilled, Self-employed, Empowered, Supportive, Educated, and Dignified). They should be given the necessary information, skillsets and support based on their expertise and interests, so

they are capable and encouraged enough to create their small business models, now is the time for the anti-trafficking movement to push further ahead in innovation to force true systemic transformation. If we bring about a revolution to create a new wave of entrepreneurs who are blazing a trail in anti-trafficking innovations, social enterprises can aid survivors on the path to socioeconomic independence. Single-minded work facilitation towards promoting the cause of the prevention of human trafficking, raising awareness on the issue, and establishing dialogue on the significance of survivors' roles in enacting social entrepreneurship, laws, and public policies on human trafficking is to be persuaded.

Palestinians stream out of combat zone in north Gaza

Israel opens window for safe passage

AP ■ KHAN YOUNIS

Thousands of Palestinians streamed onto Gaza's only highway on Friday, fleeing the combat zone in the north after Israel announced a window for safe passage, as officials in the enclave said the Palestinian death toll surpassed 11,000 people. Amid an intensifying campaign of airstrikes and ground battles in Gaza City, the search for safety in the besieged enclave has grown increasingly desperate. Tens of thousands have fled south, where they face the prospect of ongoing bombardment and dire conditions. Others have crowded into and around hospitals, sleeping in operating rooms and wards.

Gaza medical officials accused Israel of striking near hospitals on Friday, though Israel said at least one was the result of a misfired Palestinian rocket. Gaza's largest city is the focus of Israel's campaign to crush Hamas following its deadly Oct. 7 surprise incursion.

Early Friday, Israel struck the courtyard and the obstetrics department of Shifa Hospital, where tens of thousands of people are sheltering, according

to Ashraf al-Qidra, spokesperson at the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza. A video at the scene recorded the sound of incoming fire waking people up in their makeshift shelters in the courtyard, followed by screams for an ambulance.

The Israeli army has alleged that Hamas hides in and under hospitals and that it has set up a command center under Shifa — claims the militant group and hospital staff deny.

The director of Shifa said Israel demanded the facility be evacuated, but he said there was nowhere for such a large number of patients to go.

"Where are we going to evacuate them?" Director Mohammed Abu Selma asked in an interview on the television network Al Jazeera.

The Health Ministry later said one person had been killed at Shifa and several were wounded. Another strike near the Al-Nasr Medical Center, which includes two hospitals for children, killed two people, according to the ministry.

In all, Gaza health officials said strikes were carried out near four hospitals overnight and early Friday. A senior Israeli security official said that initial findings indicated that one

strike at Shifa was the result of a misfire by militants. The military is conducting a review. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing. At Shifa, families are sleeping in hospital rooms, emergency rooms, surgical theaters and the maternity ward — or on the streets outside, according to Wafaa Abu Hajjaj, a Palestinian journalist at the hospital, as well as several people who recently left.

Daily food distributions has helped a tiny number for a time, but there has been no bread in recent days, they said. Water is scarce and usually polluted, and few people can bathe.

World Health Organization spokesperson Margaret Harris said 20 of Gaza's 36 hospitals are no longer functioning, including a pediatric hospital where children had been receiving care such as dialysis and life support — "things that you cannot possibly evacuate them safely with." More than two-thirds of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have fled their homes since the war began. On Friday, a steady stream of civilians used both sides of Gaza's main north-south highway.

Parents walked with small children, some evacuees crammed into covered donkey carts with possessions piled on the roof, and others rode on bicycles.

Since last weekend, the Israeli military has set aside several hours a day to enable civilians to escape northern Gaza, and it announced a six-hour window Friday.

A day earlier, the White House said Israel agreed to implement a brief humanitarian pause each day — in what appeared to be an effort to formalize and expand the process. Israel has also agreed to open a second route for people fleeing, the White House said.

In all, Israel estimated more than 850,000 of the 1.1 people in northern Gaza have left, according to military spokesman Jonathan Conriss, who called the pauses "quick humanitarian windows" that allow southward movement "while we are fighting." UN expert for the Palestinian territories Francesca Albanese called the pauses "cynical and cruel," saying it was just enough "to let people breathe and remember what is the sound of life without bombing, before starting bombing them again."

Poland's opposition party leaders sign coalition deal after winning election

Warsaw (AP): The leaders of Polish opposition parties signed a coalition agreement on Friday that lays out a roadmap for governing the nation over the next four years.

The parties collectively won a majority of votes in last month's national election. Their candidate to be the next prime minister is Donald Tusk, a former prime minister who leads the largest of the opposition parties, the centrist Civic Platform.

Tusk said the parties worked to seal their agreement before the Independence Day holiday on Saturday, adding that, "We wanted to show that we are ready to take responsibility for our homeland." Speaking ahead of the signing ceremony in the Polish parliament, Tusk said the agreement would offer a set of "signposts and recommendations" for the government he hopes to lead. The conservative party that has governed Poland for the past eight years, Law and Justice, won more votes than any single party but does not have a majority and has no potential coalition partner.

President Andrzej Duda nonetheless has given Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki of Law and Justice a first chance to try to form a government. Most commentators say Morawiecki's mission is doomed, and they believe Duda tapped him to show loyalty to Law and Justice, the party he is allied with. The newly elected legislature — both the lower house, the Sejm, and the Senate — will meet for the first time next Monday.

Sunak under pressure to sack Suella Braverman

PTI ■ LONDON



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is under pressure to sack his Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, as the row surrounding her controversial newspaper article attacking the Metropolitan Police over its handling of Israel-Hamas protests in London continues to gain momentum on Friday.

While Sunak's official spokesperson at 10 Downing Street has said that he has "full confidence" in the Home Secretary, they did confirm that the contents of 'The Times' Op-Ed did not have the full clearance of her boss.

The harshly worded piece on Wednesday attacked the Met Police for having "double standards" and "playing favourites" by not taking tougher action against pro-Palestinian protesters when they turned aggressive.

"The words that she used are not words that I myself would have used," UK Chancellor Jeremy Hunt told broadcasters when asked about the row.

While clearly distancing himself from her stance, the senior Cabinet minister stressed that he has a "productive relationship with her as a colleague" and reiterated that Sunak "has full confidence in her".

It comes as the Opposition Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats and even some sections of Braverman's own Conservative Party are calling for her removal from office over her actions, which could be a breach of the ministerial code for ignoring prime ministerial approval before publication of an article.

"Suella Braverman... is entitled to her views but she should make them privately within the Cabinet meeting and the government should come to a clear position," said Darren Jones, one of the Labour shadow ministers calling for Sunak to sack Braverman.

The Labour MP said the position she put forward in her Times article is "fundamentally in breach of her responsibility of being the Home Secretary" because it is for the police to decide "operationally how to maintain order on our streets".

The row is playing out as it emerged that more than 1,000 officers from forces around the UK will be drafted in to help the Met Police this weekend, amid intense political pressure to prevent any disruption to Remembrance events.

Armistice Day on Saturday marks an annual commemorative event on Whitehall, near Downing Street, where wreaths are laid and a national silence is observed in memory of Britain's World War martyrs.

The police had been under pressure to ban a planned march by pro-Palestinian

groups on Saturday but have said that their intelligence did not merit an outright ban as the route of the march did not overlap with the ceremony on Whitehall.

"In policing, we need the space to make difficult operational decisions in an independent manner. The decisions that we take are not easy ones, but we do so impartially, without fear or favour, and in line with both the law and our authorised professional practice," said Gavin Stephens, who is chairman of England's National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).

Thousands of protesters have been taking to the streets of London and other major UK cities over the past few weekends, calling for a ceasefire in the conflict in Gaza. Several arrests have been made as some splinter groups resorted to aggression, including racially motivated attacks and injuring officers on duty by releasing fireworks into the crowd.

"There have been dignified vigils in London held by Britain's Jewish community, but that is not what has tested our capacity to maintain public order."

APPENDIX IV-A
(See proviso to rule 8(6))
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited (CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029) and Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (CIN: U6710MH2006PLC305312) acting as a Trustee of Indiabulls ARC- XXXI Trust (both IHFL and IARCL) are jointly and severally referred to as ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.11.2023 from 10.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of the following amounts due to IHFL and IARCL:

DUES OF INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED:

S. No.	Loan Account Number	Outstanding Amounts (In Rs.) as on 08.11.2023
1.	HHLDCP00210364	Rs. 16,24,075/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Seventy Five only)

DUES OF INDIABULLS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED:

S. No.	Loan Account Number	Outstanding Amounts (In Rs.) as on 08.11.2023
1.	P008XXXI (Old Loan Account No. HHEDCP00210362)	Rs. 8,26,725/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Five only)

The Loan Account No. HHEDCP00210362, along with all right(s), title(s), interest(s), underlying security(ies), pledge(s) and/or guarantee(s) including the Immovable Property, has been assigned by IHFL to and in favour of Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Company Limited ("IARCL") vide Assignment Agreement dated 21.08.2023, and the same has been renumbered by IARCL and secured new Loan Account No. P008XXXI. Consequently, IARCL has also become a Secured Creditor for the said assigned Loan Account. IARCL has given its consent to IHFL to issue this Notice of Sale.

The amounts mentioned in both the tables given above are pending towards the respective Loan Accounts of IHFL and IARCL, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 08.11.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement(s) and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 09.11.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges, due to the Secured Creditor from PRAHLAD VISHWAKARMA and APARNA VISHWAKARMA.

The Reserve Price for the Immovable Property will be Rs. 8,25,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Twenty Five Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 82,500/- (Rupees Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL FLAT NO. G-4, GROUND FLOOR, REAR SIDE MIDDLE (LIG WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) COMPRISED IN 1 BEDROOM, 1 DRAWING ROOM CUM DINING ROOM, 1 KITCHEN, TOILET AND BALCONY, HAVING SUPER COVERED AREA OF 400 SQUARE FEET I.E. 37.16 SQUARE METER BUILT ON PLOT NUMBER C-1/99 SITUATED IN RESIDENTIAL COLONY DLF DILSHAD EXT. - 2, VILLAGE BRAHMUR URF BHOPURA, PARGANA LONI, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GHAZIABAD - 201005, UTTAR PRADESH, TOGETHER WITH PROPORTIONATE UNDIVIDED RIGHTS AND SHARE IN THE LAND UNDERNEATH.

THE PLOT IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:-
EAST : PLOT NUMBER C-1/98, NORTH : ROAD 30 FEET,
WEST : PLOT NUMBER C-1/100, SOUTH : OTHER'S PLOT.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomefinance.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.

SD/
Date : 10.11.2023 AUTHORIZED OFFICER
Place : GHAZIABAD INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

UNITED TEXTILES LIMITED
Regd. Off: 7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar
CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Period Ended 30th September, 2023
(Rs. in Lakhs, except per share data)

Particulars	Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended
	30.9.2023	30.6.2023	30.9.2022	30.9.2022	
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
I Revenue from operations	318.07	286.94	421.57	605.01	1652.88
II Other Income	0.68	0.65	0.38	1.33	5.83
III Total Revenue (I+II)	318.75	287.59	421.95	606.34	1658.73
IV Expenses					
(a) Cost of materials consumed	275.71	170.83	178.21	446.54	953.50
(b) Purchases of stock-in-trade	-	-	22.45	-	67.52
(c) Changes in inventories of finished goods work-in-progress and stock-in-trade	(91.59)	(41.4)	(110.46)	(95.73)	(37.33)
(d) Employee benefits expense	14.86	13.89	7.70	28.75	59.80
(e) Finance costs	26.94	14.04	18.38	40.98	40.44
(f) Depreciation and amortization expenses	28.29	26.67	31.51	54.96	112.13
(g) Other expenses	63.54	64.00	273.76	335.18	458.57
Total Expenses (IV)	317.75	285.29	421.55	603.04	1654.63
Profit/(Loss) before exceptional items and tax (III-IV)	1.00	2.30	0.40	3.30	4.10
V Exceptional Items					
Profit/(Loss) after exceptional items but before tax (V-VI)	1.00	2.30	0.40	3.30	4.10
VII Tax expense:					
(I) Current Tax	-	-	1.90	-	1.96
(II) Deferred tax	0.25	0.58	(1.65)	0.83	(1.23)
Total tax expense	0.25	0.58	0.25	0.83	1.07
Profit/(Loss) for the period from continuing operations (VII-VIII)	0.75	1.72	0.16	2.47	3.03
X Other comprehensive income (OCI):					
A. Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss					
(i) Re-measurement gain (losses)	-	-	-	-	2.00
On defined benefit plans	-	-	-	-	(0.50)
(ii) Income tax effect on above	-	-	-	-	-
(iii) Equity instrument through Other Comprehensive Income (Gain on fair valuation of Long Term Investment)	-	-	-	-	1.50
Income tax effect on above	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Comprehensive Income (X)	0.75	1.72	0.16	2.47	1.80
Total Comprehensive Income (Comprising Profit/(Loss) and Other comprehensive income For the period) (IX-X)	0.75	1.72	0.16	2.47	1.80
XI Reserve/Other Equity					
Reserve/Other Equity	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
XII Earnings per equity share (Rs. 10/- share)					
(1) Basic	0.03	0.06	0.01	0.08	0.10
(2) Diluted	0.03	0.06	0.01	0.08	0.10

Note:
1. The aforesaid results were placed before and reviewed by the Audit Committee at its meeting held on 8th November 2023 and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on the same date. The Statutory auditors have carried out limited review of these financial results.
2. There are no separate reportable segments as per the Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS 108) on segment reporting.
3. The Figures have been regrouped/rearranged wherever considered necessary to facilitate comparison.
Place : Hisar
Date : 8th November, 2023
For United Textiles Limited
Vivek Aggarwal
(Whole Time Director)
DIN No. 07072908

GOLDEGE ESTATE AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED
Regd Office: C-115, Ground Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015
CIN: L1010DL1992PLC047541

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEP 30, 2023
Amt. in Rs. except per share data

S. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE					
		Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended	
		30-Sep-23	30-Jun-23	30-Sep-22	30-Sep-23	30-Sep-22	31-Mar-23
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Total income from operations (gross)	7.03	6.85	6.28	13.88	12.32	25.87
2	Total income from operations (net)	7.03	6.85	6.28	13.88	12.32	25.87
3	Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	0.47	3.38	2.12	3.85	4.61	9.83
4	Net Profit for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	0.47	3.38	2.12	3.85	4.61	9.83
5	Net Profit for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	0.35	2.53	1.59	2.88	3.45	3.69
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	0.35	2.53	1.59	2.88	3.45	3.69
7	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each)	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24
8	Other Equity	-	-	-	-	-	70.87
9	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each)						
Basic:		0.01	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.07	0.07
Diluted:		0.01	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.07	0.07

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/ HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
Amt. in Rs. except per share data

S. No.	Particulars	CONSOLIDATED					
		Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended	
		30-Sep-23	30-Jun-23	30-Sep-22	30-Sep-23	30-Sep-22	31-Mar-23
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Total income from operations (gross)	7.03	6.85	6.28	13.88	12.32	25.87
2	Total income from operations (net)	7.03	6.85	6.28	13.88	12.32	25.87
3	Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	0.47	3.38	2.12	3.85	4.61	9.83
4	Net Profit for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	0.47	3.38	2.12	3.85	4.61	9.83
5	Net Profit for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	0.40	2.81	1.83	2.88	3.45	4.84
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	0.90	2.81	1.83	2.88	3.45	4.84
7	Equity Share Capital	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24
8	Other Equity	-	-	-	-	-	78.76
9	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each)						
Basic:		0.02	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.07	0.09
Diluted:		0.02	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.07	0.09

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial results filed with Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the Quarterly results are available on the stock exchange websites i.e. www.mseil.in and on Company website www.goldegeestate.in

For and on behalf of the Board
For Goldege Estate and Investments Limited
Sd/
Nikhil Bansal
Director Cum CFO
DIN : 00815132

Place : New Delhi
Date : 10.11.2023

US conducts airstrike in eastern Syria

Washington (PTI): The United States has conducted a self-defence airstrike in eastern Syria against a facility used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and affiliated groups, the White House has said. The precision strike was conducted in response to the recent attacks directed by the IRGC and affiliated groups against US and coalition bases in Iraq and Syria, White House Deputy Press Secretary Olivia Dalton told reporters aboard Air Force One.

"Yesterday, President (Joe) Biden directed the US military to carry out a self-defence airstrike in eastern Syria against a facility used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and affiliated groups," Dalton said on Thursday. She said the US conducted the strike to disrupt and degrade the freedom of action and capabilities of these groups directly responsible for attacking US forces who are in Iraq and Syria as part of the mission to defeat the ISIS. "We are making it clear that these attacks are unacceptable and cannot continue. President Biden and the United States government are fully prepared to take further necessary measures to protect our people and our facilities. And we want to be clear that we continue to urge against any escalation," Dalton said.

Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh told reporters at a separate news conference that these actions were taken in response to ongoing threats and attacks directed at US bases in both Syria and Iraq by the IRGC and related groups.

"The target was identified as a single-weapon storage facility used by the IRGC and the — and its related groups. US Central Command conducted the strike with two F-15s. We are still conducting the assessment of the strike, but initial analysis indicated multiple secondary explosions after the strike, as we had expected," she said.

Singh said this action was aimed at disrupting and degrading the capabilities of groups directly responsible for attacking US forces in the region.

By specifically targeting these associated facilities, the US seeks to convey a clear message to Iran that it will be held accountable for the attacks on US forces, she said.

The US expects Iran to take measures to direct its proxies to stop, she said.

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1917PLC003392, Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204 Dist. Ghaziabad (U.P.), Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi 110025
Website: www.modirubberlimited.com Email: investors@modigroup.net Phone: +91-11-2684 8416

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Sl. No.	Particulars	QUARTER ENDED						HALF YEAR ENDED					
		STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED		STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED		STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED	
		30-Sep-23	30-Jun-23	30-Sep-22	30-Sep-23	30-Jun-23	30-Sep-22	30-Sep-23	30-Sep-22	30-Sep-23	30-Sep-22	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-23
		Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from operations (Net)	63.12	64.21	55.50	498.59	478.50	55.51	127.33	111.58	977.10	105.58	271.58	532.36
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	2,503.27	793.34	2,188.35	687.02	584.47	1,091.17	3,296.61	1,800.36	1,271.50	2,025.58	1,126.38	3,140.96
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	2,503.27	793.34	2,188.35	687.02	584.47	1,091.17	3,296.61	1,800.36	1,271.50	2,025.58	1,126.38	3,140.96
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	2,293.40	583.37	1,724.98	317.60	360.76	629.67	2,876.77	1,383.39	678.36	1,608.86	796.64	2,765.51
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (after tax)	2,485.68	555.06	1,952.11	662.90	203.44	789.80	3,040.73	1,071.44	866.35	554.40	137.69	1,931.71
6	Equity Share Capital (Face value of share is Rs. 10/- each)	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,499.55	2,499.55	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,499.55	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,499.55
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
8	Earnings per share (EPS) (of Rs. 10/- each) (Not Annualised)												
(a)	Basic and Diluted EPS (before exceptional items) (in Rs.)	9.16	2.33	6.89	1.27	1.44	2.51	11.49	5.52	2.71	6.43	3.18	11.06
(b)	Basic and Diluted EPS (after exceptional items) (in Rs.)	9.16	2.33	6.89	1.27	1.44	2.51	11.49	5.52	2.71	6.43	3.1	

Biden, Xi to meet on Nov 15 to discuss trade, Taiwan, freight ties

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet on Wednesday (November 15) in California for talks on trade, Taiwan and managing fraught US-Chinese relations in the first engagement between the leaders of the world's two biggest economies in nearly a year, Biden administration officials said.

The White House has said for weeks that it anticipated Biden and Xi would meet on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco, but negotiations went down to the eve of the gathering, which kicks off Saturday. The officials, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House, said Friday that the leaders would meet in the San Francisco Bay area but declined to offer further details because of security concerns.

Thousands of protesters are expected to descend on San Francisco during the summit. The meeting is not expected to lead to many, if any, major announcements, and differences between the two powers certainly won't be resolved. Instead, one official said, Biden is looking toward "managing the competition, preventing the downside risk of conflict and ensuring channels of communication are open." The agenda includes no shortage of difficult issues.

Differences in the already complicated US-Chinese relationship have only sharpened in the last year, with Beijing bristling over new US export controls on advanced technology; Biden ordering the shooting down of a Chinese spy balloon after it traversed the continental United States; and Chinese anger over a stopover in the US by Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen earlier this year, among other issues. China claims the island as its

territory. Biden will also likely press Xi on using China's influence on North Korea, during heightened anxiety over an increased pace of ballistic missile tests by North Korea as well as Pyongyang providing munitions to Russia for its war in Ukraine. The Democratic president is also expected to let Xi know that he would like China to use its burgeoning sway over Iran to make clear that Tehran or its proxies should not take action that could lead to expansion of the Israel-Hamas war. His administration believes the Chinese, a big buyer of Iranian oil, have considerable leverage with Iran, which is a major backer of Hamas.

Biden and Xi last met nearly a year ago on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia. In the nearly three-hour meeting, Biden objected directly to China's "coercive and increasingly aggressive actions" toward Taiwan and discussed Russia's invasion of Ukraine



and other issues. Xi stressed that "the Taiwan question is at the very core of China's core interests, the bedrock of the political foundation of China-US relations, and the first red line that must not be crossed in China-US relations."

Next week's meeting comes as the United States braces for a potentially bumpy year for US-Chinese relations, with Taiwan set to hold a presidential election in January and the US holding its own presidential election next November.

Beijing sees official American contact with Taiwan as encouragement to make the island's decades-old de facto independence permanent, a step US leaders say they don't support. Under the "One China" policy, the US recognises Beijing as the government of China and doesn't have diplo-

matic relations with Taiwan, but it has maintained that Taipei is an important partner in the Indo-Pacific. Biden intends to reaffirm the US wants no change in the status quo, one official said.

Disinformation experts testifying before the Senate Intelligence Committee have warned that Beijing could aim to target the US, sowing discord that might influence election results at the local level, especially in districts with large numbers of Chinese-American voters. The Biden administration has sought to make clear to the Chinese that any actions or interference in the 2024 election "would raise extremely strong concerns from our side," according to one official.

The officials also noted that Biden is determined to restore military-to-military communications that Beijing largely withdrew from after then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in August 2022. All the while, the

number of unsafe or provocative encounters involving the two nations' ships and aircraft have spiked.

Last month, the US military released a video of a Chinese fighter jet flying within 10 feet (3 metres) of an American B-52 bomber over the South China Sea, nearly causing an accident. Earlier that month, the Pentagon released footage of some of the more than 180 intercepts of US warplanes by Chinese aircraft that occurred in the last two years, part of a trend US military officials call concerning.

The Pentagon has warned that the lack of military-to-military contacts "raises the risk of an operational incident or miscalculation spiralling into crisis or conflict." The officials also said Biden would underscore US commitment to the Philippines, following a recent episode in which Chinese ships blocked and collided with two Filipino vessels off a contested shoal in the South China Sea.

The Philippines and other neighbours of China are resisting Beijing's sweeping territorial claims over virtually the entire sea. "I want to be very clear," Biden said in October. "The United States' defense commitment to the Philippines is iron clad."

Both sides appeared to be carefully considering security for the meeting, declining to publicise the venue of the much-anticipated talks. Thousands of people protesting climate destruction, corporate practices, the Israel-Hamas war and other issues are expected to descend on San Francisco during the summit.

San Francisco Police Department Chief Bill Scott said his department expects several protests a day but doesn't know which ones will materialize where and when. He said the city respects people's right to mobilise peacefully but will not tolerate property destruction, violence or any other crime.

Pak SC agrees to hear Mush's plea on his death sentence

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Friday decided to hear an appeal by now-deceased former military dictator Pervez Musharraf against the special court majority judgment that handed him a death sentence on treason charges in 2019.



Musharraf, who died on February 5 this year, had filed the appeal four years ago. "A four-member larger bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faiz Isa, heard the appeal against a decision to dissolve the special court that was previously hearing the Musharraf treason case," The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

The bench - the other three judges are Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Aminudin Khan, and Justice Athar Minallah - entertained different bars and lawyers' petitions against the Lahore High Court's (LHC) judgment that had declared Musharraf's trial as void. A three-judge special court of Justice Waqar Ahmad Seth, Justice Nazir Akbar, and Justice Shahid Karim in the 2-1 split verdict on December 17, 2019, had found Musharraf guilty of high treason under Article 6 for violation of the Constitution and sentenced him to death in absentia. The judgment angered the country's

powerful army that has ruled over Pakistan for most of the period during its 75-plus years of existence. It was the first time a former top military official had faced such a sentence for treason in Pakistan.

The death sentence was later annulled by the Lahore High Court. On Friday, hearing the petition nine months after Musharraf's death, the apex court inquired why the appeal had not been fixed for a hearing for the past four years, and lamented that it is unfortunate that despite one judge's order in the chamber, the appeal was not fixed for the last four years, the newspaper said. "If we are not accountable to our system, then how will we be accountable to others," the paper quoted Chief Justice Isa as saying. Musharraf's counsel, advocate Salman Safdar

stated that in February 2020, Justice Umar Ata Bandial had ordered the office to fix the former military dictator's appeal against the Registrar's objections before the larger bench but the case was not listed for the last four years. The counsel stated that the appeal is a continuity of trial and this should have been heard. Musharraf, through Safdar, had filed the plea to set aside the conviction by saying that the trial was conducted and completed "in sheer violation of the Constitution as well as the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1898 as well as the suspension of the judgment in the interest of justice and fair play."

"Subsequently, the hearing of the case was adjourned till November 21," The Express Tribune said. Musharraf, the architect of the Kargil War in 1999, died in Dubai after a prolonged illness in February 2023. The 79-year-old former military ruler, who had been in the UAE since 2016, was undergoing treatment for amyloidosis at a hospital in Dubai.

The charges against Musharraf - who was sentenced in absentia by the special court - stemmed from his imposition of a state of emergency in 2007, after which dozens of judges were placed under house arrest or sacked, sparking widespread street protests by lawyers.

Special court defers hearing in cipher case against Imran

Islamabad (PTI): A special court in Pakistan on Friday adjourned the hearing of the cipher case against former prime minister Imran Khan till November 14 without any further proceedings. The Special Court headed by Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain held the trial hearing in the Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi where Khan has been kept since September 26 when he was shifted there from the District Jail, Attock.

"Cipher case hearing at Adiala Prison (was) adjourned till Tuesday, November 14, without any proceedings," said Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party in a statement. Khan, 71, was arrested in August this year after a case was filed against him for disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington in March last year.

The trial is being conducted under the Official Secrets Act and the court on the last hearing day, November 7, recorded statements of witnesses. It was not clear how many witnesses out of 10 recorded their statements. The former prime minister and his close ally ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, 67, were indicted on

October 23 for the alleged leaking of a diplomatic cable and violating the secrecy laws of the country. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered the case against Khan and Qureshi, a co-accused in the case about the document sent by the country's Washington embassy in March 2022. On October 31, the special court adjourned to November 7 the hearing of the cipher case without recording the statements of any of the 10 witnesses.

Putin visits southern military HQ to assess war in Ukraine

Moscow (AP): Russian President Vladimir Putin visited the Southern Military District headquarters in Rostov-on-Don as he assessed the state of his country's forces in Ukraine as the war drags on toward winter. It was his second public visit to the headquarters in less than a month. Video shared by a Russian state news agency showed Putin being greeted late Thursday by Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu and Valery Gerasimov, chief of the General Staff.

Almost 21 months of war have significantly eroded both Russia's and Ukraine's military resources. As winter comes, the

fighting is likely to further settle into attritional warfare and analysts expect little change to the more than 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line.

In Rostov-on-Don, less than 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Ukraine's southeastern border, Putin was "introduced to new types of military equipment" and was informed about the progress of the war, his spokesperson Dmitry Peskov

said, according to Russian state news agency Tass. Putin made the visit on the way back from a trip to Kazakhstan, where he aimed to cement ties with Russia's ex-Soviet neighbor and major economic partner in the midst of tensions with the West over Ukraine. Around the time that Putin was visiting his southern military headquarters, Russia launched a drone attack on Ukraine.

Pak govt, IMF agree on backup steps in talks

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's caretaker government and the IMF have reached a consensus on backup measures to be activated by the year's end if significant deviations from fiscal and monetary objectives threaten the broader aims of the ongoing USD 3 billion bailout to the cash-strapped nation, according to a media report on Friday. Informed sources told the Dawn newspaper that a visiting mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Pakistani authorities would be concluding technical-level discussions on Friday.

growth were the key concern for the IMF mission, as imports so far remain subdued than anticipated at the time of budget 2023-24 and the loan deal's finalisation in July.

In any case, both retail and real estate sectors would be required to significantly increase their contribution to the revenue stream from their existing share with effect from July 1, 2024.

The sources said the two sides had no big issue on the need for curtailing development spending during the current year both at the federal and provincial levels, but effective taxation on agriculture income remains out of the caretaker government's agenda given constitutional limitations. However, the IMF mission has not given up flagging its importance. In August, the government shared with the IMF a revised plan for managing the power sector circular debt, besides rebasing annual tariffs and streamlining monthly and quarterly fuel adjustments, including that of the private power utility K-Electric. This meant no fresh flow to the circular debt, which had exceeded Rs2.5 trillion by the end of September.

"Luckily, no major issue has emerged so far for the power sector this time," an official said, hoping that policy-level talks with the IMF would remain smooth. However, the government may have to make proper allocations to solarise tube wells in next year's budget to further cut down on subsidies. The policy-level talks next week would also suggest if the IMF had any problem with external financing needs that Pakistani authorities plan to meet through significantly higher foreign direct investment (FDI).

IMPORTANT NOTICE

On the occasion of "DEEPAWALI" festival on 12.11.2023 (Sunday), the following arrangements have been made at all the Computerized Passenger Reservation offices in Delhi Area:-

Partial Service :- Will be available up to 18:00 hrs at (i) IRCA Reservation Complex (ii) Delhi/PRS & (iii) Hazrat Nizamuddin/PRS.

The following Reservation offices will remain closed in the evening shift from 14:00 hrs to 20:00 hrs:

(i) Sarojini Nagar (ii) Lajpat Nagar (iii) Okhla (iv) Karkardooma (v) Noida (vi) Delhi Shahdara (vii) Ghaziabad (viii) Adarsh Nagar (ix) Subzi Mandi (x) Kirti Nagar (xi) Tuglakabad (xii) Shakurbasti (xiii) Rohini (xiv) All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS). All the above offices will work as usual in the morning shift.

PRS counters will remain closed for the whole day:

(i) Parliament House (ii) Press Club of India (iii) Railway Board (iv) Supreme Court (v) International Tourist Bureau (IRCA Building)

PRS counters will remain closed on 12.11.2023 (Sunday) in the EVENING shift at the following locations over Delhi Division i.e. Anand Vihar Terminal (PRS), Sahibabad, Naya Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Palam, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Faridabad, Ballabhgarh, Palwal, Narela, Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Mansa, Rohtak, Bahadurgarh, Nangloi, Shamli, Muradnagar, Modinagar, Meerut Cantt., Meerut City, Muzaffarnagar, Khatauli, Deoband, Baraut, Gohana, Pataudi Road, Hajaraj, Greater Noida, Noli, Saket Court, Dwarka Court, Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Shakur Basti, Samalkha, Gannaur, Shahabad Markanda, Jakhhal, Tohana, Julana, Narwana, Chaudhary Charan Singh University (MTC) & Rohini Court.

Current Reservation counters at New Delhi (Pahar Ganj & Ajmeri Gate Side), Delhi Main, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar & Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Stations will work at usual timing.

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Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Short Term e-Tender Notice for Providing Un-Skilled, Semi-Skilled, Skilled and Highly-Skilled Manpower through Outsourcing

E-tender No. GNDU/REG/2023/02 Date: 10.11.2023

Online bids are invited for providing Un-Skilled, Semi Skilled, Skilled and Highly-Skilled workers at Guru Nanak Dev University Main Campus, its Regional Campuses and Associated/Constituent Colleges on monthly wages on contract basis for a period of two years. Tender Documents can be purchased through online mode only from website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in. Last date for closing the online tender is 25.11.2023 upto 5:00 P.M. For more details visit the above mentioned portal.

Registrar

Amritsar
Date: 10.11.2023
NA/12/20190/2023/29724 Dated CHD :- 11/10/2023

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot

Sadiq Road, Faridkot - 151203 Ph: 01639-256232, 256236

ADMISSION NOTICE - 2023

M.Sc (Phytomedicine), M.Sc. (Gerontology)
Master in Hospital and Administration (MHHA)

Online applications are invited through University website for admission to M.Sc (Phytomedicine), M.Sc. (Gerontology) & Master in Hospital and Health Administration (MHHA) Courses, session 2023 at University Centre of Excellence in Research (UCER) Faridkot from 10.11.2023 to 24.11.2023 alongwith requisite fee of Rs.5000/- +18% GST (Rs.5900/-) and for SC candidates Rs.2500+18% GST (Rs. 2950/-) through University Payment Gateway. The Date of Counseling will be notified on the University website. The Selected candidates will pay the tuition fee on the spot at the counseling venue in the shape of Bank Demand Draft in Favor of Registrar, BFUHS, payable in Faridkot.

Note: For Eligibility/detail/Fee/Prospectus visit University website i.e. www.bfuhhs.ac.in

Sd/- Registrar

nil/12/174/2023/29726 Dated CHD :- 11/9/2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. SSA/11/2023-Equity-SSA/333927/2023 Date 09.11.2023

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites bids vide GEM/2023/B/4131705 Dated: 08-11-2023 for Supply of Sanitary Napkins Vending Machines and Sanitary Napkins Incinerator Machine through GeM portal.

Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit their bid in GeM portal accordingly. The bid is also available in SSA website : <https://ssa.assam.gov.in>

Sd/-Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha Axom
Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

Jamasanyog/CF/58323/11-Nov-23

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY AMRITSAR

Punjab -143005

Expression of Interest

Sealed EOI are invited for and on behalf of Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar from Experienced and Financially sound Food Chain Vendors having experience in supply and selling of prepared only veg food and beverages items at Kiosk.

Name of Work	EMD (Refundable)	Last date of submission of Bid
Supply and selling of prepared only veg food and beverages items, by Food Chain Vendor at Kiosk in Guru Nanak Dev University.	Three times of bid value (3 X bid value)	20-11-2023

EOI document alongwith term & conditions may be downloaded from University website www.gndu.ac.in or obtained from office of Assistant Registrar (General) Administrative Block, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar Free of cost during office hours on or before due date and time. Application form may be obtained from office of Assistant Registrar (General).

Sd/- Registrar
Guru Nanak Dev University
Amritsar (Punjab) -143005

NA/12/20189/2023/29723 Dated CHD :- 11/10/2023

LOGIX BUILDTech PRIVATE LIMITED

Reg. Office:-DGL006, GROUND FLOOR, DLF GALLERIA, MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-1, NEW DELHI-110091

Corporate Identification Number:-U70200DL2010PTC200042

E-mail:corporate@logixgroup.in

ANNEXURE I

(Regulation 52(8), read with Regulation 52(4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015

Extract of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the quarter and six months ended September 30, 2023
(All amounts in INR lakhs, unless otherwise stated)

S.No.	Particulars	Quarter			Half year ended		Year ended
		30.09.2023	30.06.2023	30.09.2023	30.09.2023	30.09.2023	
1	Total Income from Operations	2,451.92	2,374.39	3,000.39	4,826.33	5,325.48	10,417.47
2	Loss before tax, exceptional items	(3,251.01)	(3,388.12)	(3,693.92)	(6,639.12)	(7,419.53)	(13,883.90)
3	Loss before tax & after exceptional items	(3,251.01)	(3,388.12)	(3,693.92)	(6,639.12)	(7,419.53)	(13,883.90)
4	Loss after tax, exceptional items	(2,420.50)	(2,507.20)	(3,608.49)	(4,927.69)	(6,379.67)	(10,446.85)
5	Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the period/year (net of tax)	(2,420.30)	(2,507.00)	(3,607.27)	(4,927.30)	(6,377.24)	(10,446.07)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	2,054.75	2,054.75	2,054.75	2,054.75	2,054.75	2,054.75
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	1,147.37	3,567.67	10,143.50	1,147.37	10,143.50	6,074.67
8	Net Worth	3,202.12	5,622.42	12,198.25	3,202.12	12,198.25	8,129.42
9	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	117,450.00	117,630.00	119,040.00	117,450.00	119,040.00	117,720.00
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Debt Equity Ratio	36.68	20.92	9.76	36.68	9.76	14.48
12	Earnings per equity share						
	(i) Basic (in INR)	(11.78)	(12.20)	(17.56)	(23.98)	(31.05)	(50.84)
	(ii) Diluted (in INR)	(11.78)	(12.20)	(17.56)	(23.98)	(31.05)	(50.84)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Debt Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.26	0.23	0.23	0.25	0.24	0.21
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	0.28	0.24	0.19	0.26	0.19	0.23

Notes:-

a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of annual financial results filed with the Stock exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the annual financial results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) and the listed entity (www.logixgroup.in).

b) For the items referred in Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock exchange (BSE India) and can be accessed on the URL (www.bseindia.com) and website (www.logixgroup.in)

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Sd/-
Shakti Nath
Director
DIN: 00017090

Place: Noida
Date: November 09, 2023

Sensex, Nifty rebound on fag-end buying; power, utility shares advance

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded on Friday to close with marginal gains due to fag-end buying in power, utility and metal stocks amid weak global trends. After remaining in the negative terri-

tory for most part of the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 72.48 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 64,904.68. During the day, it fell 251.25 points or 0.38 per cent to 64,580.95. The Nifty went up by 30.05 points or 0.15 per cent to 19,425.35.

During the Samvat year 2079 ended on Friday, the BSE Sensex jumped 5,073.02 points or 8.47 per cent, while the Nifty climbed 1,694.6 points or 9.55 per cent. During this period, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed surged over Rs 43.81 lakh crore to reach Rs 3,20,29,232.24 crore.

Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, ITC, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank and Power Grid were the major gainers. On the other hand, Mahindra & Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Titan and IndusInd Bank were among the laggards.

The benchmark index is taking cues from the global market as the US central bank is not confident that headline inflation is under control and bond yields are mounting higher. Despite these concerns, the market has

Forex trade impacted by platform outage, RBI seeks explanation

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Trading in the forex market was impacted on Friday as one of the platforms suffered an outage. One of the electronic trading platforms suffered an outage around midday during the trading hours due to which players were unable to log into the system, according to sources.

Orders dried up as a result of this, they said, adding that this created a heightened uncertainty in the forex market, causing excess volatility in the Indian rupee, which was available. According to market participants, the Rupee, which has

been range-bound around 83.30 to the dollar for many weeks lost some ground as a result of the volatility, depreciating till 83.50 intra-day before closing at 83.34 at the end of the trading session. A source said the Reserve Bank of India has asked the platform to undertake a "root cause analysis" and "ascertain whether it was a system failure or human error that led to the disruption" on the platform. The RBI has also sought an explanation from the platform to understand the circumstances leading up to the disruption and if the standard operating procedures on business continuity were triggered immediately or not.

SOJO INFOTEL PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U74999DL2016PTC302026

Regd. Office : M-11, Mezzanine Floor, Balrama House Commercial Complex, Karampura, New Delhi 110015 | E-mail: info.sojoinfotel@gmail.com
Website: sojoinfotel.sojo.co.in | Contact No.: 7428193046

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		30/09/2023 (Un-Audited)	30/09/2022 (Un-Audited)	30/09/2023 (Un-Audited)	31/03/2023 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations including other income	23.56	21.50	47.79	177.99
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(918.40)	(849.84)	(1,644.19)	(3,220.74)
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional &/ or Extraordinary items#)	(918.40)	(849.84)	(1,644.19)	(3,220.74)
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(687.25)	(635.95)	(1,230.38)	(2,410.15)
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	-	-	-	-
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1	1	1	1
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(6,202.91)	(3,892.87)	(6,202.91)	(4,972.52)
8.	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-	-
9.	Net worth	(6,201.91)	(3,891.87)	(6,201.91)	(4,971.52)
10.	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	17400	20000	17400	20000
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	NA	NA	NA	NA
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	NA	NA	NA	NA
13.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -				
1.	Basic : (in Rupees)	(6,872.55)	(6,359.51)	(12,303.81)	(24,101.46)
2.	Diluted : (in Rupees)	(6,872.55)	(6,359.51)	(12,303.81)	(24,101.46)
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA
15.	Debt Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.01	0.27	0.02	0.04
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02

Notes:
1. The above results have been reviewed & approved by Board of Directors in their meeting held on 9th Nov. 2023.
2. The above is an extract of detailed format of unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter and half year ended Sep 30, 2023 filed with Bombay Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) 2015. The full format of the financial result can be accessed at URL (<http://www.bseindia.com>) and <http://sojoinfotel.sojo.co.in/>
3. For the other line items referred in regulation 52 (4) of the LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Bombay Stock Exchange and can be accessed on the URL (<http://www.bseindia.com>) and can be accessed at URL <http://sojoinfotel.sojo.co.in/>
4. Previous period figure have been regrouped and reclassified to confirm with current period's presentation, wherever applicable. For and on behalf of Board of Directors of Sojo Infotel Private Limited

Date: 09.11.2023
Place: Noida
Sd/-
Shailendra Nath Rai (Director)
DIN: 00908117

ReNew Akshay Urja Limited CIN : U40300DL2015PLC275651

Regd. Office : 138, Ansal Chambers II, Bikaji Cama Place, Delhi-110066
Corporate Office : 10th Floor, Building No. : 5, Tower A, DLF Epitome, DLF City Phase III, Sector 25, Gurugram-122002

Statement of Un-audited Financial Results for the period ended 30 September 2023

Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended	
	30 September 2023 (Unaudited)	30 September 2022 (Unaudited)	30 June 2023 (Unaudited)	31 March 2023 (Audited)
Total Income from Operations	321	311	403	1,464
Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	124	62	365	509
Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	93	48	272	379
Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	93	48	272	379
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	93	48	272	379
Paid up Equity Share Capital	133	133	133	133
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	3,429	2,769	3,334	3,061
Equity component of compulsory convertible debentures	1,144	1,144	1,144	1,144
Net worth**	4,706	4,095	4,611	4,338
Paid up Debt Capital*	5,507	6,079	5,700	5,699
Debt Equity Ratio*	2.03	2.18	2.11	2.11
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
1. Basic :	4.08	2.09	11.92	16.61
2. Diluted :	4.08	2.09	11.92	16.61
Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	2.99	2.83	3.05	2.39
Interest Service Coverage Ratio *	3.31	2.18	7.52	3.57
Current ratio*	2.00	1.81	3.85	2.25
Long Term Debt to Working Capital*	3.10	2.87	3.20	2.95
Total Debts to Total Assets Ratio*	1.90	2.23	1.95	1.97
Current Liability Ratio*	0.44	0.54	0.51	0.51
Debtors Turnover Ratio*	0.20	0.18	0.20	0.19
Debtor Turnover Ratio*	0.64	0.15	0.44	0.96

Disclosures pursuant to Regulations 52(4) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
- Credit Rating : IND AA+ (CE)
- Change in credit rating : No
- Debt Equity ratio : mentioned above
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above
- Interest Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above
- Outstanding redeemable preference shares (Quantity and Value) : Not Applicable
- Net Worth ** (30 September, 2023) : INR 4,706 (31 March, 2023 : INR 4,338)
- Net profit after tax : mentioned above
- Earning per share : mentioned above
- Debt Redemption Reserve (30 September, 2023) : INR 299 (31 March, 2023 : INR 239)
- There are no material deviation in the use of proceeds of issue of Non Convertible Debentures from the objects stated in the offer document (Regulations 52(7))

Notes:
1. Ratios have been computed as follows :
- Earning per share (Basic & Diluted) = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares
- Debt Equity Ratio* = Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) / Equity (Equity share capital + share premium + quasi equity i.e. Short term borrowing but excluding unamortized fees)
- Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit before interest, prior period items, tax, extraordinary items and depreciation / (Total Interest Expense)
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio* = (PAT based on Project Revenues realised (excluding non-cash adjustment, if any) + Depreciation + Interest (Interest, Guarantee Fees, other financing costs payable under Debenture and Project Documents)) / (Interest + Principal Repayment + Guarantee fee)
- Asset Coverage Ratio = (Total Assets) / Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders)
- Current ratio= Current Assets / Current Liabilities
- Current Liability Ratio= Current Liabilities/ Total Liabilities
- Long Term Debt to Working Capital = Non-Current borrowing including current maturities of Non-current borrowings/ (Current Assets - Current Liabilities (excluding current maturities of Non-Current borrowings))
- Total Debts to Total Assets Ratio = Total outstanding debts/ Total Assets
- Debtors Turnover Ratio = Revenue from operations /Average Trade Receivables
*As per Debenture Trust Deed dated 20 September, 2017.
** Networth represents issued subscribed and paid up capital plus reserves and surplus. Reserves and Surplus includes Capital reserve, General reserve, Debenture redemption reserve, Securities premium account and Profit and loss account balance.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the National Stock Exchange under regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website of the Stock Exchange.
3. The company is in the business of development and operation of solar power. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of IND AS - 108 "Operating Segments".
4. For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and can be accessed on URL - <https://www.nseindia.com/companies-listing/corporate-filings-announcements>.
5. The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2023 has been reviewed by audit committee and has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at the meeting held on 10 November 2023. The statutory auditors of the company have carried the limited review for financial results of the Company.

For and on behalf of
ReNew Akshay Urja Limited
(Sd./) Parul Agrawal
Managing Director, DIN : 08452687
Place : Gurugram
Date : 10 November, 2023

ReNew Wind Energy (Jath) Limited CIN No. U40101DL2012PLC236227

Regd. Office : 138, Ansal Chambers II, Bikaji Cama Place, Delhi-110066 India
Corporate Office : ReNew Hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram 122009, Haryana, India Phone No. : 124 489 6670/80

Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2023

Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended	
	30 September 2023 (Unaudited)	30 June 2023 (Unaudited)	30 September 2022 (Unaudited)	31 March 2023 (Audited)
Total Income from Operations	350	213	321	719
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	164	67	257	223
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	164	67	257	223
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	110	53	191	149
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	110	53	191	149
Paid up Equity Share Capital	153	153	153	153
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	1,888	1,779	1,822	1,726
Securities premium	1,366	1,366	1,366	1,366
Net worth	2,041	1,932	1,975	1,879
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	2,467	2,641	2,826	2,639
Debt Equity Ratio	1.43	1.66	1.66	1.54
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
1. Basic :	7.06	3.45	12.43	9.73
2. Diluted :	7.06	3.45	12.43	9.73
Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	1.68	1.80	2.78	1.51
Interest Service Coverage Ratio*	0.38	1.49	4.49	2.49
Current ratio*	3.70	2.42	4.49	2.26
Long Term Debt to Working Capital*	2.49	2.64	2.83	2.55
Current Liability Ratio*	1.57	1.54	1.67	1.76
Total Debts to Total Assets Ratio*	0.25	0.24	0.21	0.23
Debtors Turnover Ratio*	0.48	0.48	0.53	0.52
Inventory Turnover Ratio*	0.93	0.85	0.44	1.41
Operating margin (%)	88.01	119.29	-	781.73
Net profit margin (%)	65%	56%	71%	51%
Net profit margin (%)	31%	25%	59%	21%

Disclosures pursuant to Regulations 52(4) and 52(7) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

Notes:
1. Ratios have been computed as follows :
- Earning per share = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares
- Debt Equity Ratio* = Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) / Equity (Equity share capital, share premium, loan from Related party and excluding un-amortized fees)
- Interest Service Coverage Ratio* = Profit before interest, tax and depreciation / Total Interest Expense
- Current Ratio = Current Assets/ Current Liabilities
- Long Term Debt to Working Capital = Non- Current borrowing including current maturities of Non-current borrowings/ (Current Assets - Current Liabilities (excluding current maturities of Non-Current borrowings))
- Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio = Bad debts / Average Trade receivables and Average unbilled Revenue
- Current Liability Ratio = Current Liabilities/ Total Liabilities
- Total Debts to total Assets = Total outstanding debts/ Total Assets
- Debtors turnover = Revenue from operation/ Average trade receivables and Average unbilled Revenue
- Inventory Turnover = Revenue from operation/ Average Inventories
- Operating margin (%) = (Profit before tax + Finance costs - Other income + Carbon credit (net of expenses))/ Revenue from operations + Income from carbon credits
- Net Profit Margin (%) = Net profit after Tax/ Revenue from Operations
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio* = (PAT based on Project Revenues realised (excluding non-cash adjustments, if any) + Depreciation + Interest (Interest, Guarantee Fees, other financing costs payable under Debenture and Project Documents)) / (Interest + Principal Repayment + Guarantee fee)
Net worth represents issued subscribed and paid up capital plus reserves and surplus.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchange(s) under regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website of National Stock Exchange of India Limited.
3. For the other line items referred in Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the National Stock Exchange of India Limited.
4. The statement has been prepared in accordance with recognition and measurement principles laid down in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standard 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" ("Ind AS 34") as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") read with Rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and relevant rules issued thereunder and other recognized accounting practices and policies.
5. The company is in the business of development and operation of wind power. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of IND AS - 108 "Operating Segments".
6. The financial results for the half year ended 30 September, 2023 have been approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 10 November, 2023.
7. India Ratings and Care Ratings has assigned long term issuer rating and rating for the outstanding non-convertible debentures of the Company to "IND AA (CE)" with negative outlook and "CARE AA (CE)" with stable outlook, respectively.
8. Previous period figures have been re-grouped / re-classified wherever necessary, to conform to current period's classification in order to comply with the requirements of the amended Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013 effective from 1 April 2021.

For and on behalf of
ReNew Wind Energy (Jath) Limited
(Sd./) Balram Mehta
Managing Director, DIN : 06902711
Place : Gurugram
Date : 10 November, 2023

Coal India identifies 20 abandoned mines for pump storage projects

PTI ■ New Delhi
The government on Friday said more than 20 abandoned mines have been identified by state-owned CIL for evaluation and feasibility study for pump storage projects. The information was shared by Coal India Ltd (CIL) during a diversification review meeting held by Coal Secretary Amrit Lal Meena. State-owned NLCIL has also taken up a feasibility study on pump storage projects, the coal ministry said in a statement. Pumped storage power plants use gravity to generate electricity using water that has previously been pumped from a reservoir in the pit into an upper reservoir. During periods of low demand, the water is pumped into the higher reservoir. When demand is high, the water is released to drive a turbine in a powerhouse and feed electricity into the grid. Over 200 de-coaled mines with

Kukdukoo festival in Gurugram

PNS ■ GURUGRAM
Kukdukoo Fest in Gurugram concluded on November 5. This grand celebration of childhood, literature, arts, and theatre witnessed a record-breaking foot-fall of 31,543. Renowned celebrities, including Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan and the talented ventriloquist Vighnesh Pandey, graced the event. Kukdukoo Fest has become the canvas of childhood itself, where every colour and stroke represents the joy, curiosity, and dreams of our children, leaving us in awe of their view of the world, said Avishek Roy, festival co-founder. This festival is a gentle nudge in the midst of our hectic lives, reminding us to pause and revel in the beauty of laughter, the richness of learning, and the magic of coming together, remarked Soha Ali Khan.

Rungta Irrigation Limited Regd. Office: 101, Pragati Tower 26, Rajendra Place, New Delhi 110008 Tel: 011-40453330,31,32, E-mail: cs@rungalrrigation.in, Website: www.rungalrrigation.in CIN : L74899DL1986PLC023934

Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year Ended 30-09-2023

Particulars	For the Quarter Ended		For the Half Year Ended		Year Ended	
	30.09.2023 Unaudited	30.06.2023 Unaudited	30.09.2022 Unaudited	30.09.2023 Unaudited	30.09.2022 Unaudited	31.03.2023 Audited
Total income from operations	3137.80	2658.64	2180.20	5796.44	4315.80	13192.49
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	136.37	264.55	5.07	400.92	65.73	400.91
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	136.37	264.55	5.07	400.92	65.73	400.91
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	102.55	198.05	3.38	300.60	49.12	298.32
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	102.67	197.92	3.38	300.59	48.85	322.89
Equity Share Capital	1992.35	1990.64	885.61	1992.35	885.61	1659.52
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -						
1. Basic :	0.81	1.57	0.04	2.37	0.55	2.93
2. Diluted :	0.81	1.57	0.04	2.37	0.55	2.93

• The above financial results have been reviewed by the audit committee and taken on record by the board of directors in its meeting held on 09th November, 2023.
• The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly and Half Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full formats of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com

For Rungta Irrigation Limited
Sd/-
Shruti Rungta
Executive Director
DIN:00229045
Place: New Delhi
Date : 09/11/2023

SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED Registered Office 38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat New Delhi-110049

Email: info@sunilhealthcare.com; website: www.sunilhealthcare.com
CIN No. L24302DL1973PLC189662

Extract of Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year Ended 30th September 2023

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated					
		Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended		Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended	
		30th September 2023	30th June 2023	30th September 2022	30th June 2022	31st March 2023	30th September 2023	30th June 2023	30th September 2022	30th September 2023	30th September 2022	31st March 2023	
1	Total Income from Operations	2,390.79	2,294.83	3,235.65	4,685.62	6,677.29	11,345.87	2,392.13	2,369.76	3,241.24	4,761.89	6,673.56	11,498.74
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(138.56)	(98.60)	315.16	(237.16)	925.16	975.86	(146.13)	(86.89)	303.54	(233.02)	885.97	948.33
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(138.56)	(98.60)	315.16	(237.16)	925.16	975.86	(146.13)	(86.89)	303.54	(233.02)	885.97	948.33
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(102.01)	(75.61)	224.90	(177.62)	671.65	697.69	(109.89)	(64.17)	212.65	(174.06)	631.15	668.21
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(102.01)	(75.61)	224.90	(177.62)	671.65	693.58	(107.60)	(84.43)	204.03	(192.03)	611.41	604.20
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10/- each)	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-	5,147.07	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,574.21
8	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)												
(a) Basic (Rs.)	(0.99)	(0.74)	2.19	(1.73)	6.55	6.80	(1.07)	(0.63)	2.07	(1.70)	6.15	6.52	
(b) Diluted (Rs.)	(0.99)	(0.74)	2.19	(1.73)	6.55	6.80	(1.07)	(0.63)	2.07	(1.70)	6.15	6.52	

Notes:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Half Year ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Half year ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com) and

We don't fear Germany, we're confident in our abilities: Savita

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The Indian women's hockey team might have been pitted against world No.5 Germany in the FIH Olympic Qualifiers but an unperturbed skipper Savita Punia said her side has the wherewithal to overcome the challenge. At No. 6, the hosts are the second-best side in the India-leg of the Olympic Qualifiers to be held in Ranchi from January 13 to 19, and the other teams are: New Zealand (9th), Japan (11th), Chile (14th), United States (15th), Italy (19th) and the Czech Republic (25th). The other eight teams that will

fight for the Olympic spots in Valencia, Spain, include Belgium, Great Britain, Spain, South Korea, Ireland, Canada, Malaysia and Ukraine. The top three teams from each of the qualifiers will secure their places in the Paris Olympics next year. "We are confident in our abilities, and the rankings of opposing teams don't faze us as we are ready to face all the tough teams that will be coming to India for the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifier," said Savita. "We played Germany in July, so we know what we're up against," she added. India's chief coach Janneke



Schopman echoed Savita's confidence, saying that there was a lot to learn from their title triumph at the recent Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi. "A lot of things went well for us, but there are always areas where we can improve. We need to avoid unnecessary cards and make better use of our referrals," the coach said. "Similarly, with our attacking style of play, we have to face a lot of teams that play with 11 players behind their 25-yard line and we have to get better at creating opportunities playing against a closed defence. "This tournament (ACT)

showed we are a tough team. So, we will continue to focus on ourselves, look for ways to improve and leave no stone unturned in our preparation for the Olympic Qualifier," Schopman said. "We are familiar with New Zealand, we played against the US as well in the FIH Pro League last year, but most importantly I am happy to take on these tough teams at home," she added. The top three teams each from Ranchi and Valencia Qualifiers will join hosts France, Australia, the Netherlands, China, Argentina, and South Africa at the Paris Olympics.



We will become solid again when our injured players return: Stimac

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Emphasising on the need to stay positive, Indian football team coach Igor Stimac says injuries to key players such as Ashique Kuruniyan and Jeakson Singh have made the task tougher ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers. India are slated to play Kuwait in their den in a 2026 World Cup and AFC 2027 Asian Cup Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2 next week. India are also playing in the upcoming Asian Cup in January next year. "We have entered the new phase of our work, and we know it's going to be very hard and difficult on the boys. We know that the next few months until March will be very difficult," Stimac told the All India Football Federation (AIFF) website. "We are very optimistic then that once the players, who are missing now, are back, we will become solid again and show strength on the pitch, no matter who we play against. "So, the focus at this moment is how to replace those boys who were the starting 11 players, such as Ashique Kuruniyan, Anwar Ali and Jeakson Singh (currently nursing injuries). "They were our strength in the latest successes we had. These boys played very good football; they were adding extra value to the whole team," he added. India have emerged victorious 3-2 against Kuwait on their home turf only once in a friendly match in 2004. Asked if the group is tough, he replied in the positive and said the aim is to bag the second position. "Yes, the group is very tough and challenging because we know there will be no easy opponents, and they are the top teams. So apart from that, from the third pot we got by far the best opponents available (Kuwait). "So, the group is tough at the moment, but we need to approach it game by game and prepare for it. As far as I'm concerned and with my experience in football, November to March will be difficult. "To prepare well and to make sure that the national team gets enough time to secure the second spot in the group and qualify -- that is our plan." Stimac, the 1998 World Cup semifinalist with Croatia, is getting the squad together for only a few days before the Qualifiers.



US tops defending champion Switzerland in BJK Cup Finals

AP ■ SEVILLE (SPAIN)
The United States began its campaign in the Billie Jean King Cup Finals with a win over defending champion Switzerland, setting up a decisive tie against the Czech Republic for a spot in the semifinals. Danielle Collins and Sofia Kenin won their singles matches to give the Americans the victory that left them tied with the Czech Republic atop Group A. The U.S. will face the Czechs on Friday. Only the winners in each of the four groups make it to the semifinals. The Czech Republic beat Switzerland on Tuesday. The U.S. is without its two top-ranked players - No. 3 Coco Gauff and No. 5 Jessica Pegula. They opted to play in the WTA Finals, which was played just before the Billie Jean King Cup Finals. Collins defeated teenager Celine Naef 7-6 (4), 6-1 for her sixth win in seven Billie Jean King Cup matches. Kenin then beat Viktorija Golubic 6-3, 6-7 (1), 7-5 to seal the victory for the Americans. Kenin is playing her first Billie Jean King Cup tie since 2020. "I was very feisty and eager to get back up the rankings and I definitely feel like I'm getting more attention now," Kenin said. "I definitely feel I deserve it." The U.S. Remains unbeaten against Switzerland in the Billie Jean King Cup, winning all 10 ties between the nations. The U.S. is the most successful nation in Billie Jean King Cup history with 18 titles. It is trying to reach the semifinals for the second time in three years. U.S. Team captain Kathy Rinaldi will be stepping down from her role after this year's Billie Jean King Cup Finals. "I know in any tough situation, I can look over at Kathy and there is a calming presence about her," Collins said. "She's one of my biggest role models on and off the court." Earlier in Group D, Italy defeated Germany 3-0 to reach its first Billie Jean King Cup semifinal in nine years. Martina Trevisan defeated Eva Lys 7-6 (6), 6-1 before Jasmine Paolini beat Anna-Lena Friedsam 6-3, 6-2. In the doubles, Elisabetta Cocciaretto and Lucia Bronzetti defeated Friedsam and Laura Siegemund 6-4, 6-7 (4), 11-9. In Group C, Canada advanced by beating Poland for its second consecutive victory after defeating host Spain. Marina Stakusic got past Magdalena Frech 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, while Leylah Fernandez beat Magda Linette 6-2, 6-3. Australia defeated Kazakhstan 2-1 in Alicia Molik's final Billie Jean King Cup tie after 10 years as Aussie captain.

National Billiards & Snooker Championships to begin in Chennai on November 21

PTI ■ CHENNAI
The upcoming National Billiards & Snooker Championships is set to take place from November 21 at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here. It will be the 90th edition of the national championship and the first edition to be held in the city since 2011. The event will be held for over 30 days and conclude on December 25, with around 1,500 cueists across formats and age groups expected to participate. It would also include the likes of Aditya Mehta, Rafath Habib, Vidya Pillai, Brijesh Damani, Shrikrishna Suryanarayan and Anupama Ramachandran. The divisions expected at the event are Senior billiards & snooker for men and women, Masters snooker, 6 Reds Snooker for men and women and sub-junior and junior billiards & snooker for boys and girls. "If you consider snooker in Europe, it is making more money than cricket, while the prize money too is quite high, nearly at par with Wimbledon tennis, which is GBP 2,50,000," Tamil Nadu Billiards and Snooker Association (TNBSA) vice-president Rajmohan told PTI. "It's all being possible because of the visual (television) media. Gradually, with enough support, I assure you 100% that we can gain immense popularity next to cricket. It is how the sport has gained popularity in England." Echoing Rajmohan's thoughts, TNBSA president



BG Muralidharan said that the biggest challenge for Indian snooker is to reach the masses, especially at the grassroots level. "We have to reach out to more schools and universities; that's how cricket has developed and gained popularity (in the country)." Billiards and snooker are some of the indoor sports which are yet to make it to the Olympics, and Rajmohan said efforts are being made to ensure that it is included in the editions beyond 2028 Los Angeles Games. "England and even China has come up very well (in the sport). They are all strong countries, alongside France and Germany. If these four nations push for it, it will certainly be included in the Olympics," he said. "After television and social media began spreading the sport, the viewership has peaked, and it will keep escalating in the coming years. So, if this trend keeps going upwards, we will certainly get there (in the Olympics)," he signed off.



Spain calls up Girona midfielder Aleix for final 2 European qualifiers

AP ■ MADRID
Spain coach Luis de la Fuente scalled up four new players, including Girona midfielder Aleix Garcia, on Friday for the final two UEFA European Championship qualifiers, with a place in next year's tournament already secured. Spain ensured it will be among the 24 teams playing in Germany after winning at Norway 1-0 last month. The three-time winner will close out the qualifying phase by visiting Cyprus on Thursday and hosting Georgia three days later. Garcia, 26, has helped Girona far exceed expectations to lead the La Liga ahead of Real Madrid and Barcelona after losing just once in 12 games. In addition to Garcia, De la Fuente could also give debuts to Bayer Leverkusen left-back Alejandro Grimaldo, Atletico Madrid midfielder Rodrigo Riquelme and Real Sociedad goalkeeper Alex Remiro after including them in his 25-man squad.

Storm Hunter put Australia ahead by beating Anna Danilina 7-6 (2), 6-4. Kazakhstan evened the tie with Yulia Putintseva defeating Kimberly Birrell 6-0, 7-5, and Hunter and Ellen Perez gave the Aussies the win by beating Danilina and Putintseva 6-1, 4-6, 10-5.

Liverpool loses 3-2 at Toulouse in Europa League

AP ■ TOULOUSE (FRANCE)
Liverpool's comeback fell short in a 3-2 loss at Toulouse in the Europa League on Thursday but it was still a victorious day for striker Luis Diaz. Diaz's father was released hours before the match, 12 days after his kidnapping in northern Colombia by members of the guerrilla group National Liberation Army, or ELN. Diaz had appealed for his father's release after scoring Sunday in a Premier League match, revealing a T-shirt saying "Freedom for Papa" in Spanish. On Thursday, Diaz didn't score but still tested Toulouse goalkeeper Guillaume Restes with a low right-footed shot from outside the area in the first half. Aron Dønnum scored in the first half and Thijs Dallinga doubled the advantage just before the hour mark for the hosts, who lost 5-1 at Anfield two weeks ago. An own goal from Cristian Cáseres made it 2-1 in the 74th minute but Frank Maguire quickly restored the two-goal lead. Diogo Jota came on for Diaz in the 81st minute and scored eight minutes later. Liverpool thought its equalized in stoppage time but Jarell Quansah's goal was disallowed by VAR. The game was Jürgen Klopp's 450th as manager for Liverpool. Before it, Klopp told TNT Sports the Colombia striker was "really happy" with the news that his father was freed. After the game, he was not that happy with his team's performance. "It was well deserved to lose because they won pretty much all the decisive challenges, battles," Klopp said. "We have too many situations where we should have won the ball but we didn't." Liverpool leads Group E with nine points from four games. Toulouse trails by two in second. Leverkusen remained the last team with a perfect record after four games with a 1-0 victory at Qarabag in Group H. The Bundesliga leader reached the round of 16 after Victor Boniface scored the winner from the penalty spot in stoppage time. Brighton scored early in each half to beat



Ajax in Amsterdam 2-0 for its second straight win after defeating the struggling Dutch powerhouse by the same score two weeks ago. Forward Ansu Fati gave the Seagulls the lead against the run of play amid Ajax's early dominance. Simon Adingra doubled it on a counter-attack to lift Brighton to second place in Group B with seven points. Marseille leads with eight after Chancel Mbemba and Ismaïla Sarr scored in a 2-0 win at

AEK Athens, which remains on four points in third. Slavia beat Roma 2-0 in Prague, handing José Mourinho's team its first defeat. Václav Jurečka and Lukáš Masopust netted second-half goals for Slavia to tie Roma atop Group G with nine points each. At London Stadium, Lucas Paquetá's late volley secured a 1-0 for West Ham over Olympiacos to stay tied atop Group A with Freiburg, which routed Serbia's TSC Backa Topola 5-0. Borja Iglesias, Aitor Ruibal, Marc Roca and Abdessamad Ezzalzouli all scored for Real Betis in a 4-1 victory over Aris Limassol and keep the lead in Group C with nine points. Danilo Pereira and Todd Cantwell scored within eight minutes in the first half to set Rangers on the way to a 2-1 victory over Sparta Prague. The Scots are second on seven. In Group D, Berat Djimsiti's goal helped Atalanta maintain the top place with 10 points after a 1-0 win over Sturm Graz. Sporting is three points back in second after a 2-1 win over Poland's Raków.

ADDI INDUSTRIES LIMITED												
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CIN: L51109DL1980PLC256335 Tel.: 11-45025469												
E-Mail : atul.addi@gmail.com & addiind@gmail.com												
Statement of Unaudited Standalone & Consolidated Financial Results For The Quarter and Half Year Ended September 30, 2023												
(₹ in Lakh, except per share data)												
S.No	Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated				
		Quarter ended		Half Year Ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Half Year Ended		Year ended	
		September 30, 2023 (Unaudited)	June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)	September 30, 2022 (Unaudited)	September 30, 2022 (Audited)	March 31, 2023 (Audited)	September 30, 2023 (Unaudited)	June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)	September 30, 2022 (Unaudited)	September 30, 2022 (Unaudited)	March 31, 2023 (Audited)	
1	Total income from operations	134.24	119.88	98.63	254.12	183.98	138.15	123.74	101.82	190.33	405.12	
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax and exceptional items)	109.69	97.60	73.95	207.29	133.21	113.57	101.42	77.09	139.43	302.33	
3	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, after exceptional items)	109.69	97.60	31.02	207.29	1,962.32	113.57	101.42	34.16	1,968.54	2,131.89	
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after exceptional items)	81.29	76.31	24.16	157.60	1,569.19	84.62	79.59	26.94	1,574.71	1,704.05	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the Period after Tax and Other Comprehensive Income after Tax)	(0.02)	(0.02)	0.14	(0.04)	0.29	(0.02)	(0.02)	0.14	0.29	(0.09)	
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value ₹ 5/- each)	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	
7	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 5/- each) (Not Annualised)	0.15	0.14	0.22	0.29	14.53	0.78	0.69	0.25	1.52	15.78	
	Diluted	0.15	0.14	0.22	0.29	14.53	0.78	0.69	0.25	1.52	15.78	

Note:
1. The above results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and then approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on November 10, 2023. The financial results for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2023 have been limited reviewed by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the stock exchanges under regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the stock exchange websites of BSE (www.bseindia.com) and NSE (www.nseindia.com) and Company's website at <http://www.addiindustries.com/>
3. There is no change(s) in accounting policies which have impact on net profit / loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial item(s).
4. Exceptional items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind-AS Rules.

Place: NEW DELHI
Date: November 10, 2023

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Addi Industries Limited
Managing Director

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following additional Deepawali / Chhath Puja Festival Special Express Trains as per details given below:-

04534/04533 Sirhind - Saharsa Jn. - Ambala Cantt. Un-reserved Special Express Train						07 Trips
Train No.:	04534	STATIONS		Train No.:	04533	
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.	
---	20:20		Sirhind	---	---	
21:25	21:30		Ambala Cantt.	05:00	---	
23:45	---		Saharsa Jn.	---	03:00	

DATE OF RUN: 04534 from Sirhind on 13, 16 & 19.11.2023 & 04533 from Saharsa Jn. on 12, 15, 18 & 21.11.2023.

STOPPAGE: Rajpura, Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn. & S. Bhaktiyarpur Stations.

04536/04535 Chandigarh - Katihar - Chandigarh Un-reserved Special Express Train						07 Trips
Train No.:	04536	STATIONS		Train No.:	04535	
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.	
---	23:55		Chandigarh	12:30	---	
05:00	---		Katihar	---	07:00	

DATE OF RUN: 04536 from Chandigarh on 13, 16 & 19.11.2023 & 04535 from Katihar on 12, 15, 18 & 21.11.2023.

STOPPAGE: Ambala Cantt., Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Balamau Jn., Lucknow, Sultanpur, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn. & Naugachia Stations.

02351/02352 Patna Jn. - Anand Vihar (T) - Patna Jn. Superfast Express Special Train						12 Trips
Train No.:	02351	STATIONS		Train No.:	02352	
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.	
---	16:00		Patna Jn.	21:55	---	
06:00	---		Anand Vihar (T)	---	08:00	

DATE OF RUN: 02351 from Patna Jn. on 21, 23, 25, 27, 29.11.2023 & 02352 from Anand Vihar (T) on 22, 24, 26, 28, 30.11.2023 & 02.12.2023.

STOPPAGE: Danapur, Ara, Buxar, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Prayagraj Jn. & Govindpur Stations.

05315/05316 Chhapra - Delhi Jn. - Chhapra Express Special Train (Bi-Weekly)						12 Trips
Train No.:	05315	STATIONS		Train No.:	05316	
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.	
---	11:15		Chhapra	13:20	---	
11:20	---		Delhi Jn.	---	14:00	

DATE OF RUN: 05315 from Chhapra on every Tuesday & Friday from 14.11.2023 to 01.12.2023 & 05316 from Delhi Jn. on every Wednesday & Saturday from 15.11.2023 to 02.12.2023.

STOPPAGE: Ballia, Yusufpur, Gazipur City, Aunrihar Jn., Dobhi, Kerakat, Jaunpur Jn., Shahganj Jn., Akbarpur Jn., Ayodhya Cantt., Lucknow Jn., Hardoi, Shahjahanpur, Aonla, Chandausi Jn., Moradabad Jn., Amhara, Hapur Jn., Ghaziabad Jn. & Delhi Shadara Stations.

05089/05090 Banaras - Anand Vihar (T) - Banaras Express Special Train (Weekly)						06 Trips
Train No.:	05089	STATIONS		Train No.:	05090	
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.	
---	21:00		Banaras	09:50	---	
15:30	---		Anand Vihar (T)	---	18:15	

DATE OF RUN: 05089 from Banaras on every Tuesday from 14.11.2023 to 28.11.2023 & 05090 from Anand Vihar (T) on every Wednesday from 15.11.2023 to 29.11.2023.

STOPPAGE: Bhadohi, Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratapgarh, Amethi, Raebareilly Jn., Lucknow (NR), Bareilly & Moradabad Jn. Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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SOUTH AFRICA SCRAPE PAST SPIRITED AFGHANISTAN

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Calmness of Rassie van der Dussen and the fire of Gerald Coetzee helped experienced South Africa overcome a spirited resistance from Afghanistan to carve out a five-wicket win in their last league game of the World Cup here on Friday.

Set a target of 245, South Africa, who are already assured of a place in semifinals, completed the task with Van der Dussen remaining unbeaten on 76 off 95 balls.

Andile Phehlukwayo was unbeaten on a 37-ball 39 after a match-winning partnership of 65 runs with Van der Dussen.

Earlier, pacer Coetzee took four wickets as Afghanistan were limited to 244 despite Azmatullah Omarzai's impressive 97. Omarzai's knock, however, helped the Afghans to recover from 116 for six.

The defeat notwithstanding, Afghanistan, who shocked defending champions England and Pakistan during a very promising campaign, would go home with their heads held high.

Continuing his good run in the tournament, Omarzai faced 107 balls while hitting seven fours and three sixes. However,



he could not record his maiden ODI hundred after failing to score off the last three balls of the final over bowled by Kagiso Rabada.

On a pitch without any demons, South Africa started their chase confidently. But, as the match progressed, things didn't pan out the way South Africa would have liked them to.

In the end, they achieved it

with 15 balls remaining after a mighty scrap.

The in-form Quinton de Kock (41 off 47 balls) made his intentions clear quite early with a four and a six off Mujeeb Ur Rahman, dancing down the track to pummel the seasoned bowler over mid-off.

The dashing left-handed batter, who went past Rachin Ravindra to become the leading scorer of this tournament,

then pulled a Naveen-ul-Haq half-tracker over deep square leg for a maximum.

De Kock, however, could not go on to make a big one as he was adjudged trapped in front of the wicket by Mohammad Nabi, who chose to review after failing to convince the on-field umpire.

Looking to play a reverse sweep, De Kock missed and the ball hit the pads, prompt-

Pak face near-impossible task of making semifinals

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Nothing less than a miracle will help Pakistan as they face a near-impossible task of making the semifinals by winning an unthinkable margin, while a charged-up England will look to qualify for the Champions Trophy when the two sides clash in the World Cup here on Saturday.

New Zealand's net run-rate boosting five wicket-win over Sri Lanka has virtually shattered Pakistan's semifinal hopes. The 1992 champions now have to beat England by an improbable margin.

New Zealand's NRR is +0.743 while Pakistan's is +0.036, and for the Babar Azam-led side to eclipse the former to qualify as the fourth side, it has to win by around 287 runs batting first.

While chasing, Pakistan need to win with 284 balls to spare. That is an impractical task.

For defending champions England, the World Cup title defence dream may have been over for quite a sometime now but the Jos Buttler-led side will aim to finish inside top-8 to make the cut for the 2025 Champions Trophy.

As things stand, it's a four-way race with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands also in the mix with England.

Their 160-run win over the Netherlands in the last match has given the down-and-out England the much-needed late



charge as they have climbed up to the seventh spot and face the easiest equation among the four teams.

A win against Pakistan should seal the spot, considering that both Bangladesh and the Netherlands face tough opponents in Australia and India respectively, and also have inferior NRRs than England.

PAK BATTERS IN SPOT-LIGHT: Pakistan have failed to live up to the expectations in this World Cup but have showed some late surge in the last two matches to stay alive. Having played two matches already at the Eden Gardens, Pakistan have better knowledge about the conditions which has been slow and spin-friendly during the middle overs. But they would still need their top-five to fire, which has not been the case so far.

Explosive opener Fakhar Zaman, who put on a spectacular show of power-hitting against New Zealand, missing

five matches has been a mystery. The left-hander has showed what he's capable of in the last two matches.

He along with Babar, in an unbroken 194-run alliance from 141 balls in their DLS win over New Zealand in the last match, have demonstrated that they can successfully tackle any equation.

ENGLAND'S LATE SURGE: About a month separated England from their first and last win in the global showpiece. In between, they lost five matches in a row to see their World Cup campaign go up in smoke. Ben Stokes and David Malan have done well in the previous two games and it will be an interesting battle against the likes of Shaheen Shah Afridi and Hasan Rauf.

Stokes is slowly coming to his own with a half-century and an 84-ball 108 in last two matches, while opener Malan has been their best batter in a forgettable World Cup.



Rampaging Australia face depleted Bangladesh

PTI ■ PUNE

Having sealed a semifinal berth, a dominant Australia will look to continue their rampaging run when they face a Shakib Al Hasan-less Bangladesh in their final assignment before the knockout stage of the World Cup here on Saturday.

The five-time champions have been simply unstoppable, stream-rolling any team that has come their way in the last six meetings, while Bangladesh suffered the ignominy of being the first team to be eliminated from the ongoing showpiece.

Pat Cummins and Co. Stormed into the semifinals on the back of one of the greatest ODI innings played by Glenn Maxwell. The all-rounder battled cramps to smash an unbeaten 201 off 128 balls to lift Australia from a precarious 91 for seven to the victory target of 292 against Afghanistan.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, just about managed to keep their 2025 Champions Trophy qualification hopes alive with a three-wicket win over Sri Lanka in an ill-tempered game which was overshadowed by the contentious 'timed-out' dismissal of Angelo Mathews. The top eight teams, including hosts Pakistan, will make the cut for the 2025 event and eighth-placed Bangladesh will be desperate to win to hold on to their position inside top 8 in the standings.

Skipper Shakib was the top performer in their last match as he snapped two wickets, ignited the spirit of cricket debate by appealing against Mathews and then scored a 65-ball 82 to earn Bangladesh's second win in the tournament.

However, he has been ruled out of their last game with a fractured left index finger, leaving Bangladesh's bowling depleted. Anamul Haque has been called up for the final match.

Najmul Hossain Shanto will take over the captaincy and it

will be an tall task for him to inspire Bangladesh to stop Australia, who are riding high on their batting might. If opener David Warner has been their most prolific run-getter with 446 runs from eight innings, number 6 batter Maxwell has hammered 397 runs which includes the fastest ODI hundred in World Cup and a double ton.

Opener Travis Head hit a century on his return, while Mitchell Marsh has a fifty and hundred to his name but their middle order has caved in some times. A case in point being their collapse against Afghanistan. The Bangladesh bowlers will need to exploit that when they face off on Saturday.

Shoriful Islam and Mehidy Hasan Miraz will have to shoulder the responsibility of the bowling. Young Tanzim Hasan Sakib had claimed three wickets but conceded 80 runs in his quota of 10 overs on World Cup debut against Sri Lanka.

Among batters, the onus will be on Litton Das and Shanto to give them a good start, while Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur Rahim will need to produce the goods at the lower order.

Shanto returned to form with a 90 off 101 in their last match and will hope to be the fulcrum around which the team's batting revolves. It won't be easy as they will have to first negotiate the pace duo of Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, while how they fare against the spin of Adam Zampa in the middle overs will be the key.

With 20 wickets including three four-wicket hauls, Zampa has often squeezed the life out of the opposition batting unit and remains the biggest threat.

Australia possess a dominating 19-1 record against Bangladesh in 21 ODIs and with a semifinal already assured, Cummins and Co. Look favourite to seal their seventh win and carry the momentum into the knockout stage.

PTI ■ PUNE

Australia's spin bowling coach Daniel Vettori feels Adam Zampa's remarkable control over his length has complemented his other sublime skills, making him almost unplayable in the World Cup.

Among spinners, Zampa is leading the wicket-taker's list in the tournament with 20 scalps from eight games at an average of 19.20. With his team in the semifinals, he could end up as the highest wicket-taker in the ODI showpiece.

The 31-year-old did not start well against India before finding his rhythm to take four-wicket hauls against Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Netherlands.

"Yeah, it was obviously a very difficult start through injuries and illness to be able to actually play (Zampa). Probably the first three games was a bit of a - well it was an amazing effort because I think he was pretty close to pulling out against Pakistan. Fitness test right up to just before the toss.

"So, to see him get through that, has been the starting point. But I think his control of his length has been the best that I've seen in this period of time, particu-

Zampa's control of length has made him almost unplayable: Vettori

larly through those three games where he took four wickets in a row and then against England.

"We all know the skills and the variations, but his ability to actually just land the ball on the spot time and time again gave most teams limited opportunities to attack him," said Vettori on the eve of the game against Bangladesh.

Zampa had taken three wickets against arch-rivals England and that effort too was outstanding, said Vettori, himself a champion spinner.

"The England game he didn't go for a boundary; he might not have gone for anything more than a single against two left-handers, against Stokes and Moeen who are very good players of spin.

"That's been the testament in that. It is all about the length of control for him, because all the other skills are there. But when you combine that with that aspect of the game as well, he's almost unplayable."



'MAXWELL IN FULL RECOVERY MODE': Suffering from cramps, Glenn Maxwell was seen grimacing through his jaw-dropping double century against Afghanistan. The team management may not want to risk him against Bangladesh ahead of the semifinals but Vettori said he is recovering well.

"He's definitely been in full recovery mode the last few days. We all saw the effects of the innings and in particular the

team is looking to finish the league stage in second place ahead of South Africa as the home team's dressing room at the Eden Gardens is superior than the away one. The second semifinal is scheduled on November 16.

"The home dressing room at Eden Gardens is better than the away one, so we want second place so we can get in that dressing room.

"You have to take every factor into it. Whether rain plays a part, I don't know. But, to finish second, is still important, because it has some very minimal benefits.

"But it will be a focus for the group to say that we can have an opportunity to finish second if we can win this game well. So, I think that's the starting point. I think standards have been set. "The fact that we've won six games in a row after a tough start. The fact that you want momentum going into the semifinal. All those little things," he added.



Gurkeerat announces retirement from international and Indian cricket

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Gurkeerat Singh Mann, who played three ODIs on the 2016 tour of Australia, on Friday announced his retirement from international and Indian cricket.

Besides batting in the middle-order for India, the 33-year-old also bowled 10 overs of off-spin in the ODI series against Australia.

The retirement decision was coming as he was in and out of the Punjab team and played his last of seven IPL seasons in 2020. "Today marks the end of an incredible cricketing journey for me. It has been an honour and a privilege to represent India," Mann wrote on Instagram.

"My heart is filled with gratitude for the support from my family, friends, coaches and my fellow players. Each one of you played a pivotal role in my career.

"I would also like to thank BCCI and PCA for their constant support, guidance and encouragement I've got throughout my journey. Here's to the next chapter!"

He first attracted attention on the domestic circuit in 2011 when his fiery batting helped Punjab win the CK Nayudu Trophy.

He was also in brilliant form during the Ranji Trophy in 2015-16, when he slammed a double century.

Before making his ODI debut, he earned a call-up to India's Test team for the home series against South Africa but could not make his debut.

He was Punjab's top run-scorer in the Vijay Hazare Trophy in 2021-22.

In the IPL, he played for Punjab Kings, Delhi Daredevils (now Delhi Capitals) and Royal Challengers Bangalore. He was part of the title-winning Gujarat Titans squad in 2022 but did not get a game.

In 41 IPL games, he made 511 runs at a strike rate of 121.

New Zealand test cricketer Henry to face ball tampering charge

AP ■ WELLINGTON

Test batter Henry Nicholls has been accused of breaking New Zealand Cricket's code of conduct after being reported by umpires for ball tampering in a domestic first-class match this week.

Television footage of the Plunket Shield match between Nicholls' Canterbury province and Auckland appears to show Nicholls brushing the ball against a helmet during a change of ends.

"Nicholls has been reported for allegedly breaching Rule 3.1, article 1.15 of the Code during Day 3 of the Plunket Shield match between Canterbury and Auckland at Hagley Oval," New Zealand Cricket said in a statement Friday.

The rule "involves changing the condition of the ball in breach of Law 41.3 of the Laws of Cricket."

New Zealand Cricket said the allegation had been referred to a commissioner for first-class cricket.



No date has yet been set for the hearing. Nicholls is due to tour Bangladesh with the New Zealand squad later this month. Nicholls has not commented on the charge.

New Zealand's leading limited-overs players are in India competing at the Cricket World Cup, where a win over Sri Lanka on Thursday moved the 2019 runners closer to qualifying for the semifinals.

ICC suspends Sri Lanka's membership on ground of Government interference

PTI ■ DUBAI

The International Cricket Council on Friday suspended its full-member Sri Lanka after observing government interference in the national board following a tumultuous week.

The Sri Lankan parliament on Thursday unanimously passed a resolution, calling for the sacking of the country's cricket governing body, with both the ruling and opposition parties supporting it.

"The International Cricket

Council (ICC) Board has suspended Sri Lanka Cricket's membership of the ICC with immediate effect," said the ICC in a statement.

"The ICC Board met today and determined that Sri Lanka Cricket is in serious breach of its obligations as a Member, in particular, the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and ensure that there is no government interference in the governance, regulation and/or administration of cricket in Sri Lanka. "The conditions of the suspen-

sion will be decided by the ICC Board in due course," the statement added.

The resolution passed by Sri Lankan parliament amounted to government interference and that was enough ground for the ICC Board to suspend Sri Lanka's membership.

A sequence of events unfolded in Sri Lankan cricket following the team's disappointing run in the ongoing World Cup in India. Sri Lanka could manage only two wins from nine games and are out of the semifinals race.

Pant is good, to be back for next IPL: Delhi Capitals director Sourav

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Indian star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant will be back in action from the next IPL season, Delhi Capitals director of cricket Sourav Ganguly has said.

Pant, the Delhi Capitals skipper, had a close shave after his car hit a divider and caught fire in a terrifying accident in December last year.

Having suffered multiple

injuries, Pant was back on his feet after 40 days and on Thursday, he joined his teammates during Delhi Capitals' training session at the Jadavpur University Salt Lake Campus ground.

"He's (Pant) good now. He will play in the IPL next season," Ganguly told reporters giving an update on Pant.

Ganguly, the former India captain, said Pant is here on a three-

day visit to strategise on team-building ahead of the IPL auctions slated in Dubai on December 19.

Australia opener David Warner led DC in Pant's absence last season to finish second from the bottom.

"Rishabh won't be practising here though. There's still time for him to get down to practice. By January (2024), he'll get even better," Ganguly said.